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Chair Report
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Chair Report for UNICEF VIMUN 3.0

“Securing Children's Rights in Iraq”

Introduction of Secretariat:

President of UNICEF- Rawan Alanzi

Welcome delegates to VIMUN 3.0! My name is Rawan Alanzi, President Chair of this committee and it is my pleasure to be chairing you along with Basma, Murtaza, and Zubayr. I am 16 years old, I am from Saudi Arabia and I have just completed my IGCSE courses and have started my A-levels this fall.

My MUN journey began in 7th grade, where I participated as a delegate for the first time. Since then, I have attended eleven more MUN conferences making this conference my 12th MUN, my 4th conference as a chair, and my third at VIMUN. My hobbies include volunteering, swimming, basketball and binge-watching movies.

UNICEF is a very interesting committee, and I am positive that you all will enjoy it and I can't wait to see you all debate! I'm looking forward to getting to know you all and share my love of MUN with you.

Chairperson - Basma Enany

Hello delegates! My name is Basma Enany and I am privileged to be co-chairing this committee alongside Rawan, Murtaza, and Zubayr. I am 16 years old and I am from Saudi Arabia, in my Junior year in school. I have been a part of my school's MUN club for 2 years and have attended a total of 7 conferences. I have recently been accepted into the 2 year IB course. I am excited as this is my first chairing experience. I am extremely honoured to be a part of this conference, making it my 1st time as a chair. I enjoy all extracurriculars like football, reporting, volunteering and obviously MUN. This committee has a very interesting topic at hand and I am very excited to see you all share your ideas and debate them throughout the duration of this conference. I am eager to watch you all have a heated debate. I hope that you all will enjoy this conference.

Chairperson - Murtaza Akbari

Hello Delegates! My name is Murtaza Akbari and I am a twelfth grade high school student in Canada. After spending over eight years living in Bahrain, I have had the unique opportunity to experience living in two countries with contrasting political views.

I got involved with MUN for the sole reason that I had no idea what it was, but I wanted to develop my ability to speak in front of people confidently, and get a basic understanding of international politics. Over three years later, and I can confidently affirm that it is much more than politics. It provides you the opportunity to expand your understanding of social, economic and environmental issues that plague our world today. I enjoy taking part in a variety of sports, including swimming, biking and cricket.

I wish you all the best of luck in this conference. While MUN conferences can be very nerve wracking for many delegates, I encourage all delegates to try their best. The most important part about participating in MUN is to have fun!

Chairperson - Zubayr

Hello Delegates, my name is Zubayr and I am happy to say that I am co-chairing this committee with Rawan, Murtaza, and Basma. I am 15 years old and am from India. I am in my sophomore year of high school at AISR. I have been a part of MUN in my school for almost 5 years and have attended over a dozen conferences. I am very excited for this conference as it is my first conference chairing and first VIMUN experience. Some of my hobbies include basketball, football, and video games. We are lucky to have a very interesting topic at hand and look forward to enjoying a fruitful debate. I am keen on seeing you all share your ideas on the topics and critique the resolutions to your countries needs and reach an acceptable solution between each other. Wish you all the best of luck in this conference.

Committee Introduction:

UNICEF or the United Nations Children's Fund was established in 1946 with the purpose of advocating for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential in over 190 countries. Protecting the rights of children by ensuring their survival and fulfilling their potential. UNICEF supports children's health. UNICEF not only fight for their rights but are the world's largest provider of vaccines, support child health and nutrition, safe water and sanitation, quality education and skill-building, HIV prevention and treatment for mothers and babies, and the protection of children and adolescents from violence and exploitation. Third world countries are usually more at risk in this committee as they need more financial aid in order to help the children of the country. However, more modern and advanced countries tend to have better children's rights therefore ensuring that the aim of this committee is fulfilled. Meetings in this committee occur frequently and when in need as the objectives of the committee are:

1. To reach the world's toughest places and the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.
2. To be non-political and impartial, UNICEF is never neutral when it comes to defending children's rights and safeguarding their lives and futures.
3. Giving children the rights they deserve in over 190 countries.
4. Having coordination, integration, and interconnection between members and children.
5. Strengthening children's overall health and nutrition
6. Educating as many children as possible
7. Encouraging third world countries to improve laws and regulations in regard to children and their place.
8. Establishing centres to help vaccinate and aid children

The structure of UNICEF includes a 36-member Executive Board made up of government representatives. They establish policies, approve programmes and decide on administrative and financial plans and budgets. Members are elected by UNESC. Achievements of UNICEF include a Resolution on Child Care and Protection in the Islamic World adopted at the Islamic Summit Conference in 2003, the Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict which has been ratified by 23 OIC states. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography has been ratified by 29 OIC members.

Topic Introduction:

Securing Children's Rights in Iraq has been a major issue for years now. Children's rights are extremely important in all countries around the world to secure a better future and generation. The situation in Iraq however, has become out of hand. War violates every human right of children. In recent years, the lives of Iraqi children and the livelihoods of their families have become precarious. A comprehensive solution to child protection problems clearly will take time, and it is UNICEF's job to secure these rights.

All children have the right to be protected from violence, exploitation and abuse. Hundreds of thousands of children in Iraq, including internally displaced children and refugees, need protection from violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.

The primary need for the protection of Iraqi children is an end to the conflict. Family and educational order and social stability are central to efforts to achieve progress in child protection. Solutions to armed conflict and its aftermath work best when they are responsive to local cultural practices and beliefs and are drawn from an understanding of child development. Child safety, security and well-being should be at the forefront of the national agenda to ensure a more positive future both economically and socially to achieve a healthier Iraq.

The following states the current situation in Iraq (regarding children's rights):

- **Lack of *Justice* for children**
 - Overuse of deprivation of liberty, poor conditions and lack of services, low age of criminal responsibility, and a significant increase in deprivation for children in detention
- **GBV (Gender-Based Violence)**
 - Sexual violence and exploitation, family violence, forced and child marriage
- **Grave Violations of Child Rights**
 - Killing and maiming of children is the most widespread grave violation of child rights
- **Unaccompanied Children**
 - Children separated from their parents are most likely exposed to abuse
- **Birth Registration for children under ISIL Control**
 - Children are born with no documentation which limits their future rights (eg. schools)
- **Lack of Child Protection systems, Psychosocial Support, and Case Management**
 - Available psychosocial and mental health services are concentrated mostly in camps, and do not, therefore, meet Iraq's growing needs

Historical Background:

Children's rights have always been a priority in UNICEF no matter where they are from and how poor the conditions may be. Children's rights are the rights and privileges provided to fulfill children's basic needs and provisions for survival and development. The CRC protects rights of children in all areas of their life, their rights to:

- Survival
- Life
- Freedom
- Development
- neglect
- abuse
- Violence

In a nation struggling with a battle of war and poverty, children are the ones who are most at risk. Their rights to services such as healthcare, education, and freedom are being violated, with no intervention from government officials.

The main internationally recognized charter focusing on children's rights is the 'Convention on the Rights of the Child'. It was developed by the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC) during a time that saw heightened conflict and warfare in the Middle Eastern areas. Other legal standards for children's rights include Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights, which guarantees the right to respect for private and family life; the European Social Charter provides social and economic human rights which allows certain organisations to file collective complaints of violations of human rights; the Lanzarote Convention demands criminalisation of all types of sexual offences against children. These are all many types of laws and conventions in the past made to protect and endorse children's rights. However, many countries around the globe have failed to enforce these laws, or simply do not have the ability to do so.

The government's main responsibility is to protect the people and the children of their country. Ongoing issues have prevented the government from doing so.

According to the UN's 'Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism' (MRM) in Iraq, killing and maiming. However, there are thousands of children killed in Iraq every year. In the first half of 2017, 1,029 children were killed, with over 1,216 maimed.

Another serious threat to children in Iraq are the thousands of children that are still living under ISIS control. In total, there are tens of thousands of children living under ISIS control, while the majority reside in Syria. According to a 14-year old boy who escaped from ISIS, the children in ISIS camps are forced to learn how to

shoot, load and assemble firearms. The indoctrination of children in ISIS camps deprives them from their entire childhood, and sends them on a misleading life. Furthermore, the Iraqi constitution rules that any person that is born to a minimum of one Iraqi parent is an Iraqi citizen, and can enjoy the rights provided by the government. This raises several concerns, as a child who is born to non-Iraqi parents will not be eligible for the same rights as a naturally-born Iraqi. This also means that the child's family must pay for all services, including state education and health care. In rare cases, such a child is not even eligible for the public food ration program.

Due to the Iraqi war the children have been in devastation as they are left vulnerable without shelter food or other basic needs. Half of Iraq's 34,205,038 million people consist of children under the age of 18, and children comprise 3.7 million of Iraq's 6.5 million people in poverty. Although the Iraqi government does have a valid reason for their poor children's rights and the poor conditions they are left in (the war that took place in recent history). Many of the Iraqi people believe that they should be individually led by the Iraqi government and there should not be outside help such as the UN and other MEDC's.

Whatever the causes of modern-day brutality towards Iraqi children, the time has come to call a halt. Over the past few decades, UNICEF has been working to tackle specific problems, such as (not limited to) institutional frameworks for child protection, increasing the availability of child protection services, and changing the attitude towards the practices of violence against women and children. Education plays a crucial role in combating these problems. A good education system provides children with a separate environment away from home. It is important that children learn their rights from a young age. In places like the USA, over 94% of all child abuse cases are brought to light from teachers. There should also be parallel efforts for long-term legislation concerning children's rights in Iraq. Policy-makers must make it a responsibility to collect information about the nature and location of possible interventions to protect children from violence, and the actions necessary at both state and community levels. Iraq has shown some cooperation in partnering with organizations to tackle domestic and sexual violence issues.

Guiding Questions

The following questions will help you in your research about the topic:

1. Who are your assigned country's allies and enemies?
2. What is your country's opinion of the children of Iraq and their situation?
3. How is your country's situation with regards to children's rights? Do they have child labour and education?
4. What are the possible solutions that UNICEF could provide to children in Iraq?
5. Depending on your country's relationship with Iraq, is your country willing to help Children in Iraq? If so, How?
6. What are the main factors and causes that are limiting children's rights in Iraq?
7. What are some conventions in the past that were geared towards children's rights?
8. What have been the basic standards for children's rights in the past?
9. What articles of the CRC are being violated in Iraq?

Definition of Key Terms

The following definitions will help you in your research about the topic:

ISIL Control

ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), also known as ISIL (the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant), is a Sunni jihadist group with a particularly violent ideology that calls itself a caliphate and claims religious authority over all Muslims.

CRC

Through its 54 articles, the CRC sets minimum standards for children's well-being at each stage of their development. It applies to everyone under the age of 18 (the definition of a child), regardless of their gender, origin, religion, disability.

Maiming

A term that refers to when an individual is wounded/injured to an extent that the body is permanently injured.

Lanzarote Convention

Was implemented in October 2007. The purpose of it is to require the criminalization of all kinds of sexual offences against children.

Bibliography and Useful Resources

The following links will help you in your research about the topic:

1. <https://www.unicef.org/iraq/what-we-do/child-protection>
2. <https://www.unicef.org/about-us/mission-statement>
3. <https://www.unicef.org/about-unicef>
4. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13623690902943339>
5. <https://www.unicef.org/policyanalysis/files/Achievements.pdf>
6. https://www.unicef.org/mena/media/6506/file/Iraq%20Country%20Report%20on%20OOSC%20Summary_EN.pdf%20.pdf
7. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/legal-standards>
8. <https://www.unicef.org/iraq/press-releases/children-make-majority-45-million-iraqis-risk-falling-poverty-and-deprivation-due>