

Agenda 1

1. Committee Introduction

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is mandated to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide and to address situations of human rights violations, making recommendations on them. The council, comprising 47 member states, addresses all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. Their core values include equality, human dignity, and independence, and these values have led the council to consistently advocate for stronger protections on human rights. As new global challenges emerge, the UNHRC will focus on reinforcing the integration of human rights into economic, technological, and development policies.

2. Welcome Remarks

This session of the United Nations Human Rights Council convenes to address child labour as an ongoing and urgent human rights crisis. This humanitarian calamity has continued its impact on the safety and development of millions of children worldwide. The latest joint estimates from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF report that 138 million children are engaged in child labour globally, and 54 million are in hazardous work that threatens their physical and mental/physical well-being (International Labour Organization). As a global community, we have failed to meet the 2025 global elimination target, highlighting the need for accelerated international action.

Child labour is most prevalent in areas including agriculture, domestic work, mining, and informal sectors. The key structural drivers of such includes poverty, limited access to quality education, weak social protection systems, conflict, and instability. Some frequently mentioned child labour prevention methods include expanded education access, poverty reduction, strengthened social protection, and decent work opportunities for adults. Additionally, protective measures for the current matter include stronger legal enforcement, monitoring mechanisms, and safeguards for children in hazardous labour. Delegates of this committee are expected to participate in evidence-based discussions and accurately represent their countries' national stances. Note that successful outcomes would require constructive diplomacy, respectful debate, and cross-bloc collaboration for practical, implementable resolutions. Ultimately, all member states share the responsibility to ensure that every child can live a life free of exploitation.

3. About the Agenda

Agenda 1: Eradicating Child Labor in Global Supply Chains

Despite the global efforts, child labor remains a serious issue in agriculture, mining, textiles, and manufacturing industries. Many multinational corporations rely on complex global supply chains, making it difficult to monitor labor conditions and welfare. Due to their marginalized status in society, children are especially vulnerable to child labor, as poverty, limited access to education, and weak legal protections often leave them exposed to economic exploitation and hazardous work environments.

According to the International Labour Organization (ILO), nearly 138 millions of children worldwide are engaged in child labor to date, with roughly half performing hazardous work that threatens their health and safety. These children suffer from mental and physical illness, along with abuse and exploitation of hazards. They also lack education, causing them to be trapped in endless cycles of poverty, especially in underdeveloped countries. Although regulations such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Minimum Age Convention (ILO Convention No. 138), and national labor laws exist, child labor continues to persist. For the end of child labor, pivotal challenges such as poverty and economic inequality, weak law enforcement, and lack of supply chain transparency should be addressed.

Key Definitions

1. Child Labor

Work that deprives children of their childhood, potential, and dignity, and is harmful to physical and mental development. It also includes work that interferes with schooling by depriving the opportunity to attend school, oblige children to leave school prematurely, or requires them to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. Not all work done by children is classified as child labor as the participation of children or adolescents above the minimum age for admission in fair working conditions are generally regarded as something positive.

2. International Labour Organization (ILO)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) is a UN agency that sets international labor standards. They are devoted to promoting social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights, pursuing their founding mission that social justice is essential to universal and lasting peace. The organization monitors the current child labor status, addresses the root causes, and provides technical assistance in strengthening the protection over child labor.

3. Due Diligence

Child labor due diligence is a structured, four-stage process based on the UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights (UNGPs) to identify, prevent, mitigate, and account for risks of child labor within a company's own operations and throughout its supply chain. It helps companies to understand the potential risks of child labor and to take action to address them. Due to its nature as a framework, due diligence itself cannot directly impose legal consequences. However these principles can be turned into laws or regulations by states and regions, making them legally binding.

4. Supply Chain Traceability

Supply chain refers to the entire network of individuals, organizations, resources, activities, and technology involved in the production and selling of a product. To reach such goals as regulatory compliance and efficiency, companies work on the tracking and documentation of the entire process of goods, materials, and components from raw source to final delivery. This capability, supply chain traceability, allows companies to identify the detailed information of the product, ensuring regulatory compliance, risk management, and consumer trust.

5. Exploitation

In some cases, unfair treatment of young individuals takes place, for the economic benefit of the organization. Children are taken advantage of, due to their weak bargaining power and vulnerability, resulting in deprived education, health, and basic rights. Child labor exploitations happen in many forms, involving low wages, unsafe working environments, and excessive working hours.

6. Corporate Accountability

Corporate Accountability is the obligation of corporations to manage operations ethically, transparently, and legally, bearing responsibility for their impact on society. While Corporate Social Responsibility(CSR) is voluntary, this concept often implies enforceable, legally binding mechanisms for misconduct such as human rights violations or ecological damage.

7. Supply Chain Subcontracting

Supply Chain Subcontracting is a strategic partnership where a primary contractor hires external vendors to perform specific tasks. In most cases, the goal is to enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and increase production capacity. It can involve the following tasks such as outsourcing specific production, logistical, or specialized services.

Key Issues

1. Lack of Transparency

Modern global supply chains are highly complex and often involve multiple layers of subcontractors across different countries. Large multinational corporations frequently outsource production to suppliers, who may further subcontract work to smaller factories or informal workshops. This structure may result in child labor happening in lower chains of labor being overlooked.

In many cases, child labor occurs in the lower tiers of the supply chain, including small farms, home-based workshops, and informal mining operations, where oversight is minimal. Companies may claim ignorance due to the absence of direct contractual relationships with these producers. Moreover, unethical companies tend to prefer children because of the profit incentives they can make with child workers. Children who are in urgent financial situations are often willing or forced to work for a significantly lower pay than adults. They are also easier to exploit, less likely to unionize, and less aware of their rights.

2. Poverty

Poverty remains one of the most significant root causes of child labor. In low-income households, children's income may be necessary for family survival. When families struggle to afford food, housing, healthcare, and education, sending children to work becomes a coping strategy.

Limited access to quality education further exacerbates the issue. In regions where schooling is expensive, inaccessible, or of poor quality, families may see little benefit in keeping children in school. As a result, children enter the labor market at an early age, often working long hours in hazardous environments.

Moreover, the desperation of children in financial difficulties can be abused, leading to threats, low wages, toxic environments, and more.

3. Weak Enforcement

Although many countries have laws against child labor, enforcement is often weak. Governments may lack resources, trained inspectors, or effective penalties for violations. In some cases, corruption and political instability further reduce accountability.

Child labor is especially difficult to regulate in informal sectors like agriculture and small-scale mining, where government oversight is limited.

4. Corporate Responsibility

While many companies adopt voluntary corporate social responsibility (CSR) policies, critics argue that these measures are not always effective. CSR policies lack enforcements and may prioritize reputation over real change. Its voluntary measures often depend on self-reporting, which leads to limited transparency and inconsistent implementation.

Some countries have introduced mandatory human rights due diligence laws, requiring companies to monitor and address risks in their supply chains. The challenge lies in creating fair and enforceable standards while maintaining international trade and economic growth.

4. Main Stakeholders

In order to effectively address child labour in 2026, the international community must recognize it is essential that the international community recognizes the interconnected roles of consumer markets, producing nations, corporations, and international institutions.

A. Major Consumer Markets and Regulatory Powers

The United States

The United States, being one of the largest consumer markets, holds a significant influence over global supply chains. Through measures such as Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) and Section 307 of the Tariff Act, the U.S. restricts imports stemming from forced or child labour. Additionally, the “rebuttable presumption” model places the burden of proof on corporations in a way so that they must demonstrate their products are free from any exploitative behaviour. While this enforcement-based approach increases accountability, critics argue that such unilateral bans can potentially destabilize developing economies.

The European Union

The European Union plays a primary role in shaping corporate accountability through Mandatory Human Rights Due Diligence frameworks. There also exists the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), which is a law that requires companies to identify and prevent child labour risks across their entire operations and supply chains. The EU approach places the most emphasis on

systematic reform rather than solely punitive trade restrictions. Nonetheless, there remains a concern that strict regulatory standards may in turn function as ethical protectionism and create compliance burdens for developing countries.

B. Primary Exporting and Producing Nations

India

India is a key stakeholder due to the scale of its agricultural and informal labour sectors. Although India has ratified ILO conventions No. 138 and No. 182, the size and complexity of its labour market still makes it difficult for enforcement. Also, it is important to note that the Indian government tends to frame child labour as a consequence of poverty and underdevelopment. This means that economic approaches may align more closely with the country's stance than enforcement-driven restrictions. Generally, India advocates for long-term development solutions such as education expansion and poverty reduction.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

Due to its international prominence in cobalt mining, The Democratic Republic of the Congo is central to debates surrounding child labour. Cobalt, essential for lithium-ion batteries, are used in electric vehicles and renewable energy technologies. The need of artisanal mining results in an increase in child labour, often creating a complex global supply chain before reaching multinational manufacturers. It is worth noting that, in this context, there becomes an ethical dilemma between combatting climate change and mitigating child labor. Green energy, used for electric cars and batteries, require cobalt, inevitably linking back to the increase in child labour. The Democratic Republic of the Congo calls attention to this conflict.

C. Multinational Corporations (MNCs)

Multinational Corporations (MNC)

Multinational corporations operate as main stakeholders for global production and supply chains. As we enter 2026, corporations face an increased amount of legal obligations for supply chain transparency and due diligence. Many corporations possess the technological capacity to trace supply chains all the way down to raw material sourcing. Still, it is challenging to achieve the "Tier-N" visibility as it is costly and operationally complex. The major challenge would be balancing the short term profitability and long-term ethical compliance.

D. International Organizations and Civil Society

International Labor Organization (ILO)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) establishes binding international labour standards, including Convention No. 138 and Convention No. 182. Convention No. 138 elaborates on the minimum age of labour while Convention No. 182 describes the worst forms of child labour. Furthermore, the ILO provides guidance and technical assistance to help governments implement child labour policies

effectively. UNICEF, on the other hand, supports community-based programs that can tackle the root causes of child labour, such as poverty, lack of education, and social vulnerability. Also, different non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and labour unions around the world provide monitoring and advocacy for affected communities. Civil society actors also play a critical role in holding governments and corporations accountable for their commitments. This ensures transparency in supply chains and operations. Together, these organizations function as a pillar that supports international order and combats child labour. They make sure that policies align with each country's domestic context while promoting the best interests of the child.

5. Possible Solutions

Addressing child labor in global supply chains requires a combination of legal accountability, economic reform, and technological innovation. First, governments should implement mandatory human rights due diligence laws that require companies to actively identify, prevent, and remedy child labor within their operations and supply chains. Rather than relying on voluntary corporate social responsibility commitments, states can require transparent reporting, independent audits, and meaningful penalties for non-compliance. These frameworks should align with international standards established by the International Labour Organization and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. When importing countries condition market access on compliance with child labor regulations, companies are given a strong economic incentive to maintain ethical practices.

Second, long-term eradication of child labor depends on addressing poverty, its primary root cause. Many families rely on children's income for survival, meaning enforcement alone is insufficient. Governments and international organizations should invest in conditional cash transfer programs, free and compulsory education, school meal initiatives, and vocational training for parents. By increasing adult wages and reducing the financial burden of schooling, families are less likely to depend on child labor as a coping mechanism. Sustainable development strategies must therefore accompany legal enforcement.

Finally, technological innovation can significantly improve supply chain transparency. Digital traceability tools such as blockchain systems, AI-based risk monitoring platforms, and supplier mapping software allow companies to track production from raw materials to finished goods. QR codes and public transparency dashboards can also empower consumers to make informed purchasing decisions. By reducing opacity in lower tiers of production, where child labor most often occurs, technology strengthens oversight and makes corporate accountability more achievable. Together, enforceable laws, poverty alleviation, and transparent supply chains form a comprehensive strategy to combat child labor in global trade.

6. Questions a Resolution Should Answer

A strong resolution on eradicating child labor in global supply chains must first clarify how corporate accountability will be meaningfully enforced. Will due diligence obligations be mandatory across all

member states, or left to voluntary compliance? The resolution should specify monitoring mechanisms, reporting requirements, and proportional penalties for violations. It must also determine which international or national bodies will oversee enforcement and how affected children and whistleblowers will be protected when exposing abuses.

Second, the resolution must address the persistent tension between profit and ethics in global trade. How can companies remain competitive while adhering to strict labor standards? The framework should consider incentives such as trade privileges, tax benefits, or public procurement preferences for compliant businesses, ensuring that ethical practices are not economically disadvantageous.

Finally, the resolution must outline clear strategies for protecting and reintegrating rescued children. Removing children from exploitative labor is not sufficient without guaranteeing access to quality education, psychosocial support, and long-term monitoring. The resolution should define funding mechanisms, identify responsible actors, and establish measurable benchmarks to ensure that children transition from hazardous work into safe and sustainable futures.

Agenda 2

1. Committee Introduction

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is mandated to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide and to address situations of human rights violations, making recommendations on them. The council, comprising 47 member states, addresses all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. Their core values include equality, human dignity, and independence, and these values have led the council to consistently advocate for stronger protections on human rights. As new global challenges emerge, the UNHRC will focus on reinforcing the integration of human rights into economic, technological, and development policies.

2. Welcome

Distinguished Delegates, We live in a time where the legacy of colonialism still influences global power structures and economic relationships. It is important to note that in many cases, modern economic influence can mirror patterns of colonial-era exploitation. Unequal trade relationships, heavy debt burdens, and the power of multinational corporations can place developing nations in positions where their economic dependence limits their autonomy. When profit-driven means override local needs, risks such as resource exploitation, weakened labor protections, and human rights violations may emerge. This committee must therefore confront an essential dilemma. While investment can boost development, infrastructure, and economic opportunities, without safeguards, the same can act as a reinforcement of dependency and inequality. The delegates' task is to seek ways to encourage development while also protecting the nations' sovereignty and human rights. As a side note, the chairs would like to emphasize the need to balance foreign investment with national autonomy. Delegates must keep in mind that the ultimate goal is development that benefits local communities rather than exploiting them, as well as a more equitable and just global economic system in the long term.

The chairs look forward to a thoughtful debate and meaningful solutions to tackle this calamity.

3. About the Agenda

Agenda 2: Mitigating the Impact of Neocolonialism on Human Rights in Developing Nations

Neocolonialism refers to the continued economic, political, and cultural influence exerted by powerful nations or corporations over developing nations, despite the end of formal colonial rule. It operates as a form of "hidden" colonialism, where the power dynamics of the past continue to affect the global economic and political structure. This happens through unequal trade agreements, debt dependency, foreign political interference, resource extraction, and cultural dominance. These mechanisms often limit a nation's ability to exercise full economic sovereignty and independently determine its development policies. As a result, developing states may remain structurally dependent on external powers, constraining their capacity to pursue self-sustained growth. Furthermore, neocolonialism's characteristic

of being operated through complicated relationships rather than direct territorial control, makes it less visible and harder to legally define. While respecting the principles of state sovereignty, the ability to interfere in bilateral agreements may be limited inevitably. Neocolonial structures pose some serious threats to fundamental human rights. Practices such as land grabbing displace local and indigenous communities, depriving them of livelihoods and access to essential resources. Labor exploitation in global supply chains often results in unsafe working conditions, low wages, and the violation of basic labor rights. Additionally, excessive external economic control can weaken democratic governance and undermine a people's right to self-determination. Without sovereignty over their own resources and economic policies, states struggle to effectively protect essential rights.

Key Definitions

Neocolonialism

A system in which powerful states, multinational corporations, or international financial institutions exert indirect economic, political, or cultural influence over developing countries without formal colonial rule. This influence often occurs through trade dependency, debt, foreign investment control, or policy conditionalities. As a result, domestic policies, economic priorities, and development paths that primarily benefit external stakeholders can be shaped when the local needs to be. Furthermore, developing nations may become more economically dependent on powerful organizations which limits their ability to make independent policy decisions.

Right to Development

The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized. Adopted by the UN in 1986, it recognizes that human beings are the central subject of development and should be the active participant and beneficiary of the right to development. As a human right, this right is generally considered to be universally applicable to all countries and people, regardless of their development status, race, sex, or other distinctions.

Economic Sovereignty

Economic sovereignty is the right of a state to control its own natural resources, economic policies, and development strategies without external interference. It is established by a combination of foundational international legal documents, such as the UN charter, the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of states(CERDS), and various UN General Assembly resolutions. Violations of these principles may lead to international legal responsibility with consequences including: legal & diplomatic actions, countermeasures(implementation of retaliatory economic measures), or international actions.

Debt Dependency

A situation in which developing countries rely heavily on foreign loans, often leading to economic policies shaped by external creditors rather than domestic priorities.

Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs)

Economic reform policies are often imposed by international financial institutions as conditions for loans. These may include privatization, reduced public spending, and trade liberalization, which can impact social services and human rights protections.

Key Issues

Economic Dependency

Developing nations often rely heavily on foreign investment, international aid, or the export of single-commodities, making their economies vulnerable to external pressure and global market fluctuations. This structural dependency can limit policy autonomy and reinforce unequal power dynamics in international relations. When a state's ability to independently design and implement policies that protect economic and social rights is compromised, it can lead to long-term instability.

Resource Exploitation

Multinational corporations may extract natural resources such as minerals, oil, or agricultural products without fair compensation or adequate environmental protections. This can lead to land displacement, environmental degradation, and the violation of local communities' rights.

Debt and Structural Adjustment

Excessive external debt can force developing states to adopt structural adjustment programs that prioritize austerity, privatization, and market liberalization. Such measures often reduce public spending on essential services like healthcare and education, undermining economic and social rights.

Inequality in Global Trade

Unequal trade agreements and tariff systems frequently favor developed economies, limiting developing countries' access to competitive markets. This imbalance restricts industrial growth and perpetuates cycles of underdevelopment and economic dependence.

4. Main Stakeholders

Developing Nations (Global South)

The developing nations are most directly affected by neocolonial economic and political dynamics. Many of these countries seek economic growth, infrastructure, and global market access. However, in most cases, they must remain reliant on foreign investment, loans, and development aid. Such external dependence can limit policy autonomy and national sovereignty. As a result, developing nations must navigate through the challenge of pursuing economic development while protecting national sovereignty, natural resources, and human rights of their citizens.

United States

The United States plays a major role in the global economy with its immense influence on trade, investment, and political dynamics. American multinational corporations operating in developing regions, especially in sectors such as technology, agriculture, and energy, no doubt, have a strong presence in our context. It is also a major contributor to global financial institutions. The United States, at the moment, promotes foreign investment, trade agreements, and development programs in many developing countries. Although supporters view these activities as drivers of development and economic integration, critics argue that certain trade policies and corporate practices may reinforce unequal economic relationships.

China

China holds a rapidly growing influence in the developing world through large-scale infrastructure investment and development financing. They are the major driver of projects under the Belt and Road initiative (Green Finance and Development Center). Their investments mainly focus on transportation networks, ports, energy infrastructure, and trade corridors across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. While some argue that these projects help close infrastructure gaps and stimulate economic development, others raise concerns about debt dependency, long-term financial obligations, and the potential for increased political influence over recipient countries.

European Powers

Several European countries, including France and the United Kingdom, continue on with their significant economic and political ties with many of their former colonies. These states remain influential in regions such as Africa and parts of Asia through its offerings of trade agreements and corporate investments. As delegates of this committee, it is important to note that the historical colonial relationships still shape economic structures and diplomatic relationships today. Keep in mind that some arrangements may maintain economic dependency or unequal power dynamics.

Multinational Corporations

Multinational corporations are major global economic actors operating across multiple developing countries simultaneously. These corporations are particularly influential in industries involving natural resources such as oil, minerals, timber, and large-scale agriculture. While they can contribute positively through job creation, infrastructure investment, and tax revenue, potential risks must also follow, including environmental damage, exploitation of labor, displacement of local communities, and unequal profit distribution. On that note, the committee's central debate must focus on ensuring corporate investment benefits local populations rather than reinforcing economic exploitation.

Financial Institutions: International Monetary Fund and World Bank

Financial institutions can provide various means to developing nations, such as financial assistance, development loans, and economic policy guidance to countries facing economic instability. A majority of their programs aim to reduce the developing nation's poverty and stabilize their national economy. One important point to consider is that loans frequently include policy conditions such as structural reforms or

economic liberalization. These conditions can significantly influence domestic economic and social policies in recipient countries. Although such reforms can encourage economic efficiency and long-term stability, it may, in turn, limit policy autonomy and disproportionately affect vulnerable populations if implemented without adequate safeguards.

5. Possible Solutions

Addressing neocolonial practices requires strengthening developing nations' ability to pursue growth without external domination. One central solution is local capacity building. Rather than relying heavily on foreign corporations to extract resources or manage infrastructure, states can invest in domestic industries, education systems, and technological development. Strengthening local manufacturing, agricultural processing, and renewable energy sectors reduces dependency on foreign capital and ensures that economic value remains within national borders. International partnerships should prioritize knowledge transfer and skills training, empowering local workers and institutions instead of creating long-term reliance on external actors.

Another critical approach is promoting fair and equitable trade agreements. Trade frameworks must go beyond maximizing profit and instead integrate human rights safeguards, environmental protections, and labor standards. Agreements should include transparency clauses, local participation requirements, and dispute-resolution mechanisms that do not disproportionately favor multinational corporations. By rebalancing negotiation power, developing nations can secure foreign investment while preserving policy space to regulate in the public interest.

Finally, stronger legal protections under international law are essential to protect vulnerable communities and natural resources. The United Nations Human Rights Council can encourage the development of binding frameworks that safeguard indigenous lands, regulate foreign corporate activity, and ensure free, prior, and informed consent before major development projects. Clear accountability mechanisms, including monitoring bodies and accessible complaint procedures, would allow affected communities to seek remedies when rights are violated. Together, capacity building, fair trade, and enforceable legal standards create a balanced approach that supports development while protecting sovereignty and human dignity.

6. Questions a Resolution Should Answer

A strong resolution on neocolonialism must clearly address how economic partnerships can avoid replicating exploitative patterns of the past. First, it should define safeguards to prevent “debt-trap” situations in which excessive loans or unfavorable terms compromise national autonomy. This includes clarifying transparency standards for loan agreements, limiting conditionalities that undermine social protections, and establishing independent review mechanisms for large-scale infrastructure financing.

Second, the resolution must confront the tension between economic growth and sovereignty. How can developing nations attract foreign investment while retaining control over natural resources and public policy? What protections ensure that multinational corporations contribute to sustainable development

rather than extractive dependency? Finally, the resolution should articulate how international institutions can support development that aligns with the Right to Development, ensuring that economic progress enhances, rather than restricts, self-determination, equality, and long-term human rights protections.