**COMMITTEE**: UNİCEF

**COUNTRY**: IRAQ

**TOPIC**: ASSESSING THE CURRENT SITUATION OF CHILD LABOR

Our country Iraq is located in the Middle East and has a population of 45 million. One-third of the population is in between 0-14 years old. Even before Covid-19 hit, 7.3 % of children between the ages of 5 to 17 were engaged in various forms of child labour, including dangerous and exploitive work.

The impact of working at a young age for a child can be very devastating and long-lasting: the child risks losing out her/his education, being deprived of basic health care and being exposed to dangers and hazardous practices. Since our country is one of the signatories of the UN Convention for the Rights of the Child, it has therefore committed itself to implementing it.

Together with our partners in the Government, we are working to develop and implement a monitoring system for child labour; especially for refugees, disabled, poor children and orphans. This system will identify children at risk of child labour and provide them the support they need.

We are working to ensure that all children have access to formal and non-formal education and our laws are protecting children from all forms of violence and exploitation, including child labour. In complementary to these efforts, Iraqi authorities also trying to develop a National Action Plan Against Child Labour to invest in basic social protection for families. We believe that only then parents will be able to make the proper decision whether to send their children into labour instead of a classroom. Moreover, stricter controls at workplaces will also be ensured in the new era.

We seek the dedicated support of UNICEF and ILO in our endeavours to end child labour in Iraq at the soonest.