

Country: Uzbekistan

Committee: ECOSOC

Topic: Reforming Global Supply Chains to Reduce Exploitative Labor Practices

The Republic of Uzbekistan recognizes that the globalization of supply chains has provided unprecedented economic opportunities but has simultaneously created opaque tiers of production where exploitative labor practices can flourish. In the context of the tourism and hospitality sectors, which represent a significant portion of global trade, supply chains extend far beyond the hotel lobby into the realms of agriculture, textile production, and manual service labor. Uzbekistan maintains that "Sustainable Tourism" is unattainable without the total eradication of forced and child labor. As the international community strives toward SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), ECOSOC must lead a transition from price-driven procurement to human-centric supply chain management that prioritizes the dignity of the worker over the profit margin of the middleman.

Uzbekistan serves as a primary example of how rigorous national commitment can transform a global supply chain. Following a decade of systemic reform, the International Labour Organization (ILO) confirmed in 2022 that Uzbekistan has successfully eliminated systemic forced and child labor in its cotton industry. This landmark achievement was made possible through the "Decent Work Country Programme," which strengthened labor inspections and empowered civil society. Furthermore, Uzbekistan's recent admission into the European Union's GSP+ scheme mandates the strict implementation of 27 international conventions concerning human and labor rights. We are currently applying these rigorous standards to our "Silk Road" tourism initiatives, ensuring that every handcrafted textile and agricultural product sold within our borders is produced under fair, monitored, and ethical conditions.

Delegation of Uzbekistan calls for the ECOSOC to draft a 'Universal Code of Conduct for Multinational Hospitality Enterprises.' This framework would shift the burden of proof from the worker to the corporation, requiring Tier 1 companies to perform mandatory 'Human Rights Due Diligence' on every sub-contractor in their network. We propose the establishment of an International Labor Ombudsman which is a neutral body where workers in the informal tourism sector can safely report abuses without fear of deportation or job loss. Reforming supply chains requires a shift from voluntary 'Corporate Social Responsibility' to mandatory legal accountability that recognizes labor rights as non-negotiable human rights.