



Position Paper
Federal Republic of Nigeria

Country: Federal Republic of Nigeria

Committee: UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund)

Delegation: İklim Destan Akyol

Agenda Item(s):

Agenda Item A: Elimination of child labor

Agenda Item B: Regulation and reintegration of child labor survivors

Nigeria is a Western African country. It has the biggest population in Africa. It is geographically situated between the Sahel to the north and the Gulf of Guinea to the south in the Atlantic Ocean. It covers a big area in Western Africa. An area that covers 923,769 square kilometers and belongs to a population of over 216 million people. Of course, a big population brings big consequences. Despite having the largest economy in Africa and the 31st largest in the world by nominal GDP and the 30th largest by PPP, it has a lower-middle-income economy due to its enormous population. Nigeria borders Niger in the north, Chad in the northeast, Cameroon in the east, and Benin in the west. Nigeria is a federal republic made up of 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory, which includes Abuja, the country's capital.

About the agenda item A, as you all know, almost all African countries are suffering from widespread poverty. And as a result, child labor has become more prevalent. Sadly Nigeria has a number of child laborers estimated to be about 15 million and these are just the ones who are below 14 years old. . According to the International Labour Organization (ILO) data at least 43% of the children population is trapped in child labor, including the private businesses. And again according to the ILO, Nigeria has the highest documented rate of child labor in West Africa. This is a serious problem that has risen as a result of poverty. For years, Nigeria has been attempting to solve this major issue. Nigeria published a 'National Action Plan' for the elimination of child labor in 2013. In 2020, Nigeria made a moderate advancement in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The Nigerian Government continued to support the National Action Plan for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism which helps end the use and recruitment of child soldiers by identifying and formally separating children from armed groups, including 209 boys and 6 girls in 2020. In addition, the Nigerian Government hired over 400 new labor inspectors and enacted the National Social Behavioral Change Communication Strategy for Elimination of Child Labor in Nigeria (2020–2023). There are also several efforts to reduce child labor in Nigeria, such as the Borgen Project, ACCEL Africa Project, etc. In addition, organizations such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) are aiming to minimize child labor in Nigeria.

About the agenda item B, obviously, child labor has a negative effect on children in every way. Some hazardous works may cause children to miss out on chances like breathing clean air, enjoying a happy and normal childhood free of mental issues, educating in safe conditions, etc. However, if child labor can be eliminated, these children should be reintegrated into society. Nigeria believes that educational donations will assist children in reintegrating into society and restarting their education. Nigeria also believes that children's education would assist in the elimination of widespread poverty too. Because education creates awareness in children and allows them to not be a cheap source of business but benefit from the development of the country. So Nigeria thinks awareness is the most important detail for the reintegration of child labor survivors.

Nigeria's solution idea about agenda item A:

Firstly, Nigeria believes that cooperating with other nations is an important step in ending child labor. So Nigeria recommends establishing a global assistance fund for the elimination of child labor, with money donations from each country's national budget.

Nigeria's solution idea about agenda item B:

Nigeria suggests limiting international laws and closing child labor facilities and making it illegal for minors under the age of 16 to work. Nigeria also offers to establish another global assistance fund for the education of child labor survivors.