** POSITION PAPER**

**THE REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA**

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

**Country:** The Republic of Tunisia

**Agenda Item 1:**  Elimination of child labor

**Agenda Item2:** Regulation and reintegration of child labor survivors

Tunisia is the smallest country in North Africa and Maghreb region covering 163,610 km². It is bordered by Libya, Algeria, and the Mediterranean Sea. The Republic of Tunisia is considered a developing country with low-middle income. Its nominal GPD is $44.192 billion. The current counted population in the country is approximately 12 million essentially Arab Berber but through the centuries and is a colony of France, its population becomes various. Tunisia has a well-diversified economy, although it remains dominated by only a few large sectors. These are agriculture, mining, and manufacturing. The Republic of Tunisia declared its independence in 1956 and since then it’s been a member of the UN. The country is also a member of the Arab League, the African Union, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and plays a key role in regional organizations.

About Agenda Item 1 as the Republic of Tunisia, we are concerned about global and regional child labor. The current data demonstrate that 160 million children worldwide are in child labor**,** which means that every 1 in 10 children work in labor, and nearly half o them work in hazardous types. We regret to say that like in every country, child labor is seen in Tunisia too. 179,000 children aged 5 to 17 in Tunisia are in child labor, comprising 7.9 % of children of this age group. Children are in labor most engaged in agriculture and fishing than in order commerce, manufacturing, domestic work, and construction. Moreover, the incidence of child labor is higher among boys than girls at every age except for household chores. Some of the steps that our government has taken in order to eliminate child labor: Ratifying key international conventions concerning child labor: ILO Convention 182( minimum age), ILO Conventions 132 (worst forms of child labor) UN convention on the rights of children, Alliance 8.7, Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Person. As the republic of Tunisia, our national key policies on child labor are the Child Labor National Action Plan( to release a practical guide on intervention in child labor that compiles relevant legal texts and implements regulations for ease of use by stakeholders) and the National Strategy for the Combat of Trafficking in Persons( aims to establish a global evidence-based approach to address trafficking in persons by coordinating national and international actors.)

Our suggestions to eliminate child labor: collecting and publishing information related to the child labor on international and national platforms, ensuring that the solutions have found in priority conferences are implemented properly, and giving instructions to children about their rights or how to behave when they are forced to sth, encouraging to report when a child labor activity is seen, Regular house visitings by people working in Ministry of Social Affairs. With this service, it will be easier to detect child labor, and we can check the children's mental and physical health also all the countries should be ensured whether the laws regarding child labor are applied by relevant courts with zero tolerance regarding enabling Access sufficient education for all children, allocating bigger portions for transporting because a lot of children can’t go to school by the lack of transporting services. The age for compulsory education ends should be increased.

About Agenda Item 2 The Republic of Tunisia believes that every child whether in its country or not should have the right of access to education and health, rest and play, protection from exploitation, sexual abuse, and harm work, prevention of sale and trafficking, and a healthy physical and mental development. Consequently, we are producing the programs below with the purpose of reintegrating the victims of child labor.

Second Chance Program: a pilot program funded by MOE (Ministry of Education) to reintegrate school dropouts ages 12 to 18 back into the educational system or provide them with vocational training.

UNICEF Country Program: An updated country strategy for 2021-2025 focuses on effective education, health, and protection systems, and accountable institutions for children and other crises

USDOL -Funded Project: A Project implemented by ILO that aims to strengthen Tunisia’s ability to implement its Child Labor National Action plan from September 2016 -to August 2022. In addition, the project has raised awareness among families, employers, and the public of the dangers of child labor and the importance of keeping children safe and in school.

As the delegation of Tunisia, we think reintegrating children into life requires a well-planned path. A Professional assistant is always in need the reason of most of them have faced physical, physicological problems like sex abuse, or have been used in conflicts, have seen things that normally a child shouldn't see) and also the full society should be instructed due to reintegrating. Furthermore, the gaps in the education life of victims should be filled as soon as possible. Another suggestion is constructing more youth places for children where they can feel happy and special.UNICEF or other noticeable organizations can organize camps for especially these kinds of children. Tunisia is ready for alliances wth each country to end child labor globally. We want to end our position paper with a quote

“The change starts within each one of us, and ends only when all children are free to be children.” – Craig Kielburger