Country: Chad

Committee: UNICEF

Agenda Item: Assessing the Current Situation of Child Labor

Chad borders Libya to the north, Sudan to the east, the Central African Republic to the south, Nigeria and Niger to the west, and Cameroon to the southwest. In 1910, the country of Chad came under French colonial rule and is now home to ethnic and linguistic communities such as the Arabs and the Sarar Mabas. Due to many wars in the past years, the country has struggled to host refugees at its borders. In Chad's local government system, regional government is at the top level, while at the federal level it is officially bilingual. There are wide, dry plains in the center, deserts in the north, mountains in the northwest and plains in the south. Oil, uranium, natron, kaolin, fish are the main natural resources. Agriculture, which comes first in terms of production, covers 38% of the production wealth in the country. As a natural resource, there is oil, which stands out in exports. Since 1960, it has also played a role in the United Nations.

Almost 160 million children around the world are currently engaged in child labor. Although there has been a decline in rates recently, it is still a serious problem. A large part of this number of child labor is due to agriculture. Africa ranks highest in child labor, followed by Asia and the Pacific. Child labor has sectors, influencing factors, causes and consequences. Why is child labor preferred over working under humane conditions and with adults? One of the main reasons is the economic aspect. Employing children at lower wages and getting rid of the insurance burden means a big profit for the employer. There are many countries that do not pay attention to these factors and employ their own children in the supply chain. Germany, the most well-known country, has introduced some laws to at least reduce child labor while combating this problem. In 1997, the Global Conferences on the Elimination of Child Labor started in Norway and continued in various countries. While these conferences helped to take concrete steps to address these problems and the rates declined, unfortunately Covid 19 reversed this decline. The International Labour Organization (ILO) also aims to eliminate child labour by 2025 through various programs and lists various policies that should be developed to effectively combat child labour. It also states that quality, free and compulsory education up to the minimum age is important for ending child labor. At the same time, such developments have also taken place in Chad. In 2022, Chad made minimal progress in its efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. It cooperated with the United Nations Children's Fund and the European Union. But children in Chad are still exposed to forms of child labor such as forced domestic work and cattle herding. In 2008, the Government of Chad established regional committees in each region to combat the worst forms of child labor.

Chadian labor law prohibits forced labor. The age for voluntary military service is 18, but children under 18 can volunteer with parental consent. The minimum age for compulsory recruitment is 20. The government has also continued to support efforts to move children away from forced labor as herders, including through the implementation of the 2008-2010 Action Plan targeting this worst form of child labor. These laws in Chad exist in other countries in different forms, but as far as we can see today, they are not enough.

In Chad, we want to offer more lasting, globally inclusive solutions. First of all, given that child labor is linked to poverty and lack of education, governments should monitor and ensure that every child's rights within the family are protected. If the child's needs are not being met, the child should be given the idea that they should meet their own needs, and if they are, a safer environment should be created for the child. If there is no compulsory education law (up to a certain age) in the country, it should be enacted and protected so that the child is not forced to work. At the same time, trainings can be created for unconscious parents. Social and economic support for families with children and employment opportunities for adults in the family can be provided. These are just a few of the solutions and we believe that we can find better solutions by working together with other countries. As Chad, we are ready to do our best.