

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

I. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a United Nations program that addresses long-term humanitarian and developmental issues in regards to children in developing countries. The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that every child has the right to grow up in a family environment and be cared for by his or her family if possible. Keeping that in mind, any family needing assistance in the care of a child has the right to receive it. This is especially true for regions of severe conflict such as Afghanistan and Syria. The continuing conflict in Afghanistan has affected nearly 25 million children over the years and the Syrian Civil War itself has displaced nearly 3.3 million children. In order to allow for the removal of children from such a toxic environment, Antigua and Barbuda has always believed in transnational adoption. As such, Antigua and Barbuda itself has passed The Adoption of Children Act, which governs all adoptions in Antigua & Barbuda. In addition, Antigua and Barbuda has supported and continues to support previous UN action taken on the issue of transnational adoption such as 1989 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

However, in order to implement a policy that successfully allows for the safe and secure transnational adoption, Antigua and Barbuda calls for strong international cooperation to help the impoverished children in the world find a safe home, wherever that may be. In order to do so, Antigua and Barbuda believes that a resolution that follows a similar structure as its own Adoption of Children Act will prove successful. Such a resolution regarding transnational adoption should have the following guidelines. First, an adoption order shall not be made in any order. case where the applicant is under the age of twenty-five years or the applicant is less than twenty-one years older than the infant in respect of whom the application is made. Second, an adoption order shall not be made except with the consent of every person or body who is a parent or guardian of the infant. Finally, an oversight committee should be made to monitor the conditions of these children post-adoption to ensure a corruption free and abuse free environment.

II. Children are affected by armed conflict in many different ways. In order to advance the goal of protecting children during armed conflict and ending the impunity of perpetrators, Antigua and Barbuda fully supports the six categories of violations – the so-called six grave violations, that the United Nations Security Council identified. The Six Grave Violations are as follows: Killing and maiming of children; Recruitment or use of children as soldiers; Sexual violence against children; Attacks against schools or hospitals; Denial of humanitarian access for children; Abduction of children. Because children are affected by all of the aforementioned detriments, Antigua and Barbuda strongly believes that the UN as a whole must address the Rights of Children caught in the middle of Armed Conflict.

Antigua and Barbuda itself has pledged support of the Six Grave Child Violations in attempt to make the world a better place for its youth. In addition, Antigua and Barbuda also supports the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism on the grave violations against children. However, Antigua and Barbuda believes further action must take place in order to combat the violation of the aforementioned grave violations. First, a UN task force that will take action solely based on the request of a sovereign nation, should be established to combat militarized organizations that breach the grave violations against children. Second, a new voluntary information database should be installed in order to collect data to better combat the violations against children due to armed conflict.

BELARUS

I. UNICEF is charged with the mission to provide every child with a fair chance in life. In doing so, the Convention on the Rights of the Child declares that a family environment is a natural right of every child. This right, however, is still jeopardized all over the world -- especially in areas of extreme conflict. The most

pressing example is the ongoing conflict in Syria which has displaced 6.6 million people within the country; half being children. Nonetheless, most of these children remain in conflict zones with only 10% of all refugees fleeing to Europe. Current humanitarian efforts, while much needed, are proving futile due to the continuing violence within the region. Since the Syrian civil war began, 320,000 people have been killed, including nearly 12,000 children.

Previous efforts to oppose inter-country adoption by UNICEF have led to much adversity throughout the world. The implementation of policies that would effectively eliminate international adoption have been under the guise of combating abuse and corruption. However, these efforts aimed at improving the lives of orphaned children in some of the poorest countries in the world have had the unintended consequence of making them worse by preventing their adoption into loving homes in other nations. That is why Belarus deems it necessary to establish a transnational adoption framework. The relocation of children, not just from Syria but from other dangerous environments as well, to a more stable environment will allow for a healthier population for the sake of these countries.

II. It is essential that UNICEF upholds the the Six Grave Childs' Rights Violations in order to allow every child a fair chance at life. This means that the organization must recognize and do everything in its power to prevent death, abduction, illegal recruitment, sexual violence, and the violation of medical care or education. It must be stressed that these crimes against children are not specific to one country or continent. However, it must be further stressed that some continents see more children's right violations than others.

However, it is not just children safety that is being compromised. Children — a nation's hope for a better future — have lost loved ones, suffered injuries, missed years of schooling, and witnessed countless acts of violence and brutality. Warring parties in these areas forcibly recruit children to serve as fighters, human shields, and in support roles -- and being an orphan only exacerbates these possibilities. That is why Belarus declares that UNICEF must expand its efforts to protect children through the use of diplomacy first and then force if the situation deems it necessary. Economic or military sanctions can come a long way in gaining international attention on any matter.

## BULGARIA

I. Bulgaria entered the European Union in 2007 along with 27 other EU Member States hoping to improve living and working conditions. Bulgaria falls as one of the poorest EU Member States as well as the lowest level of economic output. Consequently Bulgaria has some of the lowest living conditions. Out of the 7.2 million persons subsided in the country, Roma's make up about half a million of the population and 1 in 5 of them live below the poverty line. Corruption in Bulgaria is three times higher than the EU average due to the high unemployment rate among Roma's and the little amount of education they receive. Government has promoted education among the whole country of Bulgaria though most Romany people have to attend segregated schools and commonly drop out. Families that suffer in poverty often receive no support from the government and are very prone to abandoning their children. Children are moved into foster care or sometimes even sent to institutions for young offenders. The amount of children on the adoption list, especially Romany children, grows each and every day. Bulgaria has the highest rate of institutionalized children in Europe especially for children with special needs. When Bulgaria was in a communist state (before 1990) mothers were encouraged to hand their disabled children over to institution in order to enable them to work their 8 hour work days. The government has worked to increase the control of international adoption by becoming a Hague Adoption Convention Country. This aims for protection from trafficking of children and abduction and ensures that the child is being placed in a permanent home. In 2013, 140 adoptions were made compared to 2009 where only 15 were adopted. In the past, Bulgarian adoptions slowed every time a change was being made in the country. With the Hague Service Convention in place, it allows for service of process of legal documents from one state to another without the use of consular or diplomatic channels. This as a result has sped up the process of adoptions

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## BURKINA FASO

I. Burkina Faso, despite all current struggles and instabilities, believes that, in terms of protecting our youth's prosperity and harboring the growth of the next generation of Burkinabe, is properly fulfilling it's duty to our citizens in order to maintain future growth and prosperity. Our great nation would never dream of tampering with it's bright future, and our children, the forefront of this vision, are poised for career success, with over thirty-five percent of young adults in positions of employment. However, without sufficient manpower or resources, our endeavors may be short lived. While our economy is steadily improving, it cannot compete with our growing population in it's current state, and international adoption, while it can have it's uses, will not completely alleviate the plight of the poverty among the less fortunate in our country.

Our average household is vastly more populated than the more privileged countries, and with such rapid population growth, the parents of our nation are quickly becoming overwhelmed. International adoption may reduce the burden on them, but many communities lack the required resources to maintain such services. Instead, our nation has pondered the idea of community homes for those without proper parental care as a more than acceptable method of fostering the less fortunate of the next generation. With this, our nation will be able to provide for and house those in need, without the complexity and economic burden of international adoption. While any UNICEF assistance towards young Burkinabe is greatly appreciated, food and clothing provisions will be more than welcome to any child in need.

II. Given the fragile state of political unity in on our continent, Burkina Faso may not fit the requirements to care for all States as a whole, it is capable of providing children with basic necessities, and a chance at personal prosperity. While we may not be able to fully support the UN in all it's noble goals to eradicate the terrible epidemic of child soldiers, it is willing to accept those in need inside it's borders, as long as they are able to become capable citizens of our nation. In the way of using military force and government institutions to remove children from conflicts, our nation will offer what it can within reasonable expectations, so long as we receive some form of support from the our friends and allies. As for punishment for using youth in militaristic employment, especially at the front lines, perhaps temporary limitation of power for the State, in some shape or form, should be sufficient in preventing the widespread use of youth soldiers, but it may vary from case to case.

## CHINA

I. Due to the Great Chinese Famine that killed 15 to 30 million people , China passed a One Child Policy in 1979, leading to the abandonment of most female children and increasing the number of children in orphanages. This increase is expanding into a national issue of infanticide and over-population is orphanages. China's stance on the integration of an international framework would be for it, due to the strict policy they currently have regarding transnational adoption, as well as strict policies against the violence involving children.

The Chinese Communist Party has created and enforced laws to reduce the risk of overpopulation, including to One Child Policy of 1979. China's cultures reflect a patriarchal society, and because of this combined with the One Child Policy, many families are abandoning and murdering newly born females. The abandoned females usually end up in overcrowded orphanages because of this. Recently, the men of this generation are of age but the gender imbalance has led to most being unable to marry, leading to human smuggling and sex trafficking. UNICEF is working with legislatures to rescue these children from violence and enter them into safe environments. China needs this problem to be resolved due to the drastic effect it is having on the generation as a whole.

China has ratified prior regulations to protect its children from harm or endangerment, including Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2002), as well as Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict (2007). China has also passed rules and regulations to protect its children in transnational countries, including age restrictions for adoption. China would have a positive take on an international framework for transnational adoption because it back their already present stance on adoption standards. Age restrictions as necessary cultural development should be developed as a requirement for transnational adoption. Also, countries with resources available to help the transnational adoption crisis in China as well as other countries across the globe should invest in helping bring the children out of crisis. Overall, with China creating a Two Child Policy in 2016 and with travel resources becoming more prevalent, children should be less endangered across the globe and have greater opportunities for success.

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## COLOMBIA

I. Between 1999 and 2013, just 14 years, there were 3,921 total international adoptions from Colombia. The Colombian Family Welfare Institute (ICBF) manages all Colombian adoptions and they have set up an international framework throughout the years by adding specific rules and restrictions to transnational adoptions. Before ICBF's extensive procedures were placed in 2012, the number of adoptions ranged from 216 to 309 per year, while the number decreases as each year passes. Colombia believes these rules are necessary for the protection of the adoptees, for the children's best interests are the top priority. One rule that ICBF placed on July 15, 2013, is the cease to accept new intercountry adoption applications from non-Colombian citizens living abroad interested in adopting a child under 6 years and 11 months old, unless ICBF considers the child to have special characteristics or needs. Colombia is also party to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, which is an international agreement to safeguard intercountry adoptions and prevents the abduction, sale of, or trafficking in children. In order for a child to be eligible for adoption, they must meet the requirements of the Convention and have an extensive review of their situation. The adoptive family must also go through two stages in the adoption process, both of which must be done while in Colombia. However, ICBF has not yet completed their framework, for Colombian courts and legislature are currently reviewing whether adoption by same sex couples and unmarried individuals are permissible. The delegation of Colombia believes that if the potential adoptive parent or couple is reviewed thoroughly and qualified to care for a child, there should be no restriction against unmarried individuals or the LGBT community. We also suggest that the child is checked on several times a year randomly in order to ensure the child's security and protection.

II. Although it is illegal, the recruitment of children in armed forces is an ongoing and highly prevalent issue in Colombia; in 2003 alone, 7,000 children were in the ranks of armed groups, and an additional 7,000 were involved in urban militias. UNICEF in Colombia works to prevent children from being conscripted into armed groups and support and care for the physical and mental health of former child soldiers. Because children are the most vulnerable and defenseless, they are the worst-affected victims of armed groups. Most children voluntarily join to escape poverty and even sexual abuse at home, especially girls, who make up 25% of child recruits. While being involved in these armed groups, children are often forced both to witness and commit violence, while themselves being abused, exploited, injured, or even killed; therefore, the delegation of Colombia believes that the time has come to put an end to this issue and improve our society. In order to reach this goal, Colombia officials have been fighting a civil war with several armed groups for the past 5 decades. Several past actions have been taken by the government of Colombia; for example, a new bill for the protection of victims of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict was approved in 2015. Colombia has also taken

international actions by collaborating with intergovernmental organizations and implementing several protocols and regulations such as the “Paris principles and guidelines on children associated with armed forces or armed groups” and the “Paris commitments to protect children from unlawful recruitment or use by armed forces or armed groups.” Some progress has been made, for example in 2015 the FARC decided not to incorporate minors under 17 years old into the ranks of the guerrillas and now seeks peace with the rest of the community. However, the removal of child recruitment has not yet been completely successful, for people the age of 17 are still considered children and other armed groups are continuing to illegally recruit minors, mostly between the ages of 9 and 15. The delegation of Colombia believes that stricter and more aggressive actions should be taken to prevent further recruitment of child soldiers. The international community should incorporate more rigorous policies against this issue and coordinate military action to stop armed forces from performing illegal actions.

## CUBA

I. International adoption has been a long disputed issue. Proponents argue that international adoption allows for unwanted children to find loving homes and more parents are encouraged to adopt in the first place. Critics argue that adoption costs are often outrageous, child trafficking results, and children lose sense of any culture or background. This conference aims to provide a framework for transnational adoption, however it must especially address the critic’s perspective to do so. First is the financial cost associated with adopting children overseas. Several parents are discouraged from adopting because of the high expense that comes with it, not to mention the loads of paperwork. Next, is the occurrence of child trafficking. In fact, child trafficking is the primary reason a number of country’s official adoption centers have shut down. Guatemala and Russia are key examples; they have seen far too many human rights abuses committed against their children and do not have the resources to address such a problem. So, such countries resort to shutting down their adoption centers. In fact, the majority of South American countries have closed down their centers due to similar reasons. Lost cultural appreciation may pose as a difficult task for the United Nations to solve, however Cuba hopes that its suggested plan will pose a viable solution to this.

The Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co- Operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption is the most significant piece of legislation this body has created to address a transnational adoption framework. The Convention aimed to implement safeguards regarding international adoption; Cuba was one of several states to accede to it. Cuba believes that this act has largely failed, however. The Convention has only made it increasingly difficult for parents to adopt a child. Costs have been raised and children are still not protected from exploitation. Cuba does restrict intercountry adoption and greatly assists its families in need, but we will strive to devise a more uniform plan regarding transnational adoption with member states.

Cuba proposes that all member states allow for greater adoption, at an annual limit. With our world becoming increasingly globalized, it is essential for children to become integrated into the larger world community. Welcoming this plan will encourage more people to invest in member states’ land, companies, etc. As a result of this, economies will flourish, thereby encouraging more families to settle down and grow. An annual limit allows for the general adoption process to be easier regulated, which will ultimately also allow for a reduction in human trafficking. Additionally, integration will force adopted children in the future to become more appreciative of their cultural background. Ultimately, such children will actually promote their country of origin’s interests, whether it be at home or abroad, by becoming more appreciative.

II. An estimated 1.5 billion children are involved in armed conflict. Forty-one percent of all the refugees worldwide are in fact believed to be children involved in armed conflict. Economic downturns, specifically in developing countries, lead to wars and armed conflict. The lack of able adult bodies for fighting forces people to start recruiting children, some as young as eight years old. These children succumb to the manipulation of adults and commit terrible atrocities, including murdering their parents. Additionally, child soldiers are subject themselves to maiming, beating, torture, and starvation. Africa sees a large number of child soldiers.

particularly in The Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, and the Central African Republic. Governments in such areas are able to do little in terms of protecting the rights of the numerous children involved in armed conflict.

The Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action were policies deviated by the United Nations, to address the rights of children in armed conflict. They address the minimum age that children may be recruited and the basic framework regarding involvement in fighting. However, this policy has little effect in terms of enforcement. People often refuse to comply with these measures on ground, and individual governments have little authority over them either. Most importantly, this policy does not address a long term plan for such children. Cuba will outline a basic framework in the following paragraph.

Cuba proposes this plan, keeping in mind the lives of child soldiers: Reintegration camps must be created for such children to come back to society. A variety of programs should be offered to assist them, including education, language, essential materials, and therapy. Measures must also be implemented to prevent sexual violence and or discrimination when offering such programs. This plan offers a more long term solution to children involved in armed conflict. Sustainability is key for a solution to be genuinely effective. Thus, Cuba believes that member states should seriously consider this plan.

## EGYPT

I. The Arab Republic of Egypt is not a supporter to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Inter-country Adoption. Therefore, when the Hague Adoption Convention entered into force in the United States on April 1, 2008, intercountry adoption regulations in Egypt did not change. Egypt follows the Islamic Shari'a law which does not allow full adoption of a child born in a foreign country, but rather foster or guardianships are granted. The only case where adoptive parents are accepted is when one is an Egyptian national, and they both need permission from the Egyptian Ministry of Social Affairs in order to keep custody and be allowed to travel abroad with the child .

II. The Arab Republic of Egypt is a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol as well as the 1969 OAU Convention Governing specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa. Home to one of the world's largest urban refugee populations, the country is currently hosting 191,742 refugees and asylum seekers, of whom 138,381 were Syrian nationals, and the remaining 53,361 predominantly African and Iraqi. They are mainly settled in areas within Greater Cairo and the cities of Alexandria and Damietta. The Arab Republic of Egypt has always expressed great concern for protection of the children's rights. On April 4, 2011 due to violence in Libya, people who fled their country, came to Egypt to escape from the armed conflict. This delegation greatly appreciates the assistance of the UNICEF, who provided different supplies in support of the affected families. Furthermore, this nation encourages other delegations to take similar actions.

III. The Arab Republic of Egypt does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. The government reported investigating and prosecuting an increased number of suspected traffickers. It continued to partner with NGOs and international organizations to identify and refer trafficking victims to protective services through its national referral mechanism, as well as to implement public awareness campaigns. Although the government prosecuted other serious crimes, it achieved no trafficking convictions, a decrease from the five convictions in the previous reporting period. The government also did not investigate or punish government officials complicit in trafficking crimes despite reports of such corruption. The government identified a significantly smaller number of victims in 2013 compared to 2012.

## ERITREA

I. By enforcing the rigorous, ten-step adoption process, protection of all Eritrean children is ensured. The government requires the prospective adoptive parents be 21 years older than the child, and take temporary residence in Eritrea for at least six months prior to the adoption. This only happens after all necessary documents have been reviewed and accepted; then an agency/authorized social worker proceeds to evaluate the housing situation. Along with the formal evaluation comes an assessment made by the caseworker personally; its outlook greatly impacting the consideration.

Although Eritrea has no legal adoption agencies, the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare handles all adoption cases. Alongside the meticulous lead of the Ministry, the adoptive parents can hire a third-party agency to govern the process, easing pressure placed on both the prospective parents and any government involvement. It has also been detailed in the Ministry's outline that same-sex couples cannot adopt from Eritrea. Although most developed nations allow this, Eritrea stands by its Islamic- and Christian-rooted beliefs wholeheartedly--never allowing them to disrupt the formal adoption process. Also, by allowing singular parents to adopt, Eritrea feels extreme pride in its maximal flexibility uncommon among other developing nations that share similar religions.

Eritrea, as a ratifying country on multiple U.N. treaties for the protection of children in conjunction with the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, believes that all members--signatories/ratifiers of the 1993 Hague Convention or not--should instill strict adoption standards in their country. The protection of children goes beyond the insurance of safe adopting, with many threats existing in their home country. Accordingly, Eritrea fully enforces their laws and regulations to ensure that every child prospers in a stable environment.

II. The entire nation of Eritrea toiled endlessly while fighting for thirty years to gain their independence. In March, 1991 we finally gained their long-awaited independence, soon electing President Isaias Afwerki. For the next thirteen years, he worked tirelessly as both Chief of State and sole head of government while also heading the State Council and National Assembly. It was Afwerki who saw the untapped potential in Eritrea, wanting to ensure the safety of its future. He decided to enact a country-wide policy stating that all citizens between eighteen and forty years of age have an obligation to enlist into a 16-month conscript service, currently called "The National Service". This law is still in effect to present day, instilling a sense of honor, pride, and responsibility in the minds and hearts of every Eritrean.

Eritrea ratified the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child on December 22, 1999, "calling for the protection against abuse and bad treatment, negative social and cultural practices, [and ending] all forms of exploitation or sexual abuse, including commercial sexual exploitation, and illegal drug use., [and aiming] to prevent the sale and trafficking of children, kidnapping, and begging of children". Alongside this treaty used for absolute protection of African children, Eritrea also ratified the United Nations treaty of The Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict on February 16, 2005, "to prohibit the conscription into the military of children under the age of 18, and ensure that military volunteers under the age of 18 are exempted from taking a direct part in hostilities". These equal standards are enforced throughout Eritrea, while also being considered in all government decisions.

Subsequently, President Afwerki decided to legalize a mandatory program that provides the last year of schooling for all at the Sawa Military Training, ensuring that each and every student is provided an equally safe and exemplary finish to their secondary school education.



## FINLAND

I. No longer than fifty years ago, transnational adoption was, allegedly, formally welcomed by the world. A relatively short amount of time in political and law implementation terms. As a result, there has been a controversy going on. People around the world are torn in between what matters the most: heritage birthrights or basic human rights, such as living and developing in a nurturing and loving environment. Furthermore, critics are concerned about the records of child abuse occurred since the opportunity and facility of internationally adopting an infant has been given to countries (often of first world).

Countries like Guatemala, Peru and Romania, who have been involved in military and political conflicts in which civilians are obviously affected, have been once considered sending countries, only to close their doors and turn their backs again on to international child placing, after a moratorium was called for by UNICEF and critics.

Finland, while not a major sending country, is open to transnational adoption. Our country experienced violent hostilities with other countries, particularly, the Continuation War, in which, the territory of Karelia had to be ceded to the USSR. Because of this, most of our children were evacuated of our lands and relocated in Sweden, as they could not stay within our extension given the poor conditions we were in.

Our delegation would like to point out that, while sad, the truth is that there is no way to evade the pain and emotional damage children conceived in, either extremely poor and violent conditions, or damaging and precarious orphanage environments, will feel. Nevertheless, the power is in our hands to stop the further trauma the international young population would undergo, giving them a chance for a brand new start, in a family eager to love and provide for them, despite having no blood relations.

We can't simply give up on transnational child placing. It feels as if the world is taking the easy way out of the problem, instead of finding a true solution, one in which our children's best interests are the main focus.

Law reform and better enforcement of laws seems to be the obvious answer. UNICEF is in present time in favor of transnational adoption, however, it is seen as a last resource given the case that there is no other alternative for a child but to evacuate his or her motherland. It doesn't have to be this way; the idea of placing them on a family that will assuredly care for them should be promoted. Furthermore, activities such as campaigns and interventions in third world countries for a healthy and preventive sexual lifestyle should be taken into consideration. This would of course tackle the problem from its roots.

II. Our world has undergone a significant amount of military and political issues. Countries have fought one another, civilians have revolutionized against their own government, to name a few examples. Today, States such as Syria and South Sudan have been experiencing armed conflict crises in which an alarmingly rising number of children are being cornered into joining their country's army and facing the enemy, pointing at it with a weapon they can barely hold up.

The delegation of Finland recognizes and is concerned by the danger these children run. Fully developed and grown human beings often end up, if not dead or physically damaged to an irreversible point, psychologically and emotionally traumatized for life, mentally ill and in need of therapy or medical treatment. Imagining a toddler or a kid suffering and going through something of the kind is simply something one cannot stomach. A solution is placed before us, regarding the first topic, transnational child placing. Understanding the importance of heritage rights and the development of children in their immediate family, but taking into consideration the war status taken by some of our world's countries, international child placing is a viable option. Needless to say families should not be torn apart from one another, especially if the cause is not one they can control or are responsible for, but certainly we cannot evacuate the whole said country's population and children's safety should be the main priority. First world countries would have to intervene for children evacuation.

## GERMANY

I. Intercountry adoptions began during the middle of the 20th century and allows children in poor destitute areas of the world to have a decent chance at life. But are they as effective as they could be? No. Germany sees the main issues with intercountry adoptions as: 1.) The absence of an international adoption regulatory body which allows for widespread corruption in orphanages 2.) The time it takes to complete the adoptions is too long and may discourage potential parents around the world from adopting. 3.) Poor orphanage conditions in many countries leads to many children developing emotional and psychological problems which makes it even less likely the child will be adopted. Solving the above problems is critical to not only increase the number of intercountry adoptions but also reducing the prevalence of corruption in orphanages, and most importantly, giving the children better living conditions.

The Hague Convention of 1993 is the main international law on intercountry adoptions while it has good intentions it encourages the corruption Germany seeks to end because many states in the agreement don't have strict enough regulatory committees. Most people want to adopt young healthy babies and an industry has sprung up to "produce" them and make a profit. The result is babies are stolen and adopted out while the older children stuck in orphanages are neglected.

To solve the above issues Germany calls for a UN organization to be a watch for and stop adoptive corruption, a more easy and streamlined process for adoptions to encourage more adopting, and a better orphanage conditions to house healthier children more likely to be adopted.

II. From 1998 to 2008, 2 Million children have been killed in armed conflict. Germany believes there is a two part solution to relieving the plight of children in these situations. First discourage and end the use of children as soldiers in countries around the world and secondly get children out of the fighting zones.

UN General Assembly adopted the Convention of Rights of the Child in 1989 which puts countries and rebel groups that commit crimes against children on a blacklist by the UN Security Council which is effective because nations on the list try hard to get off by improving protection of children. Chad and Afghanistan both submitted action plans showing the effectiveness of shaming and naming but more needs to be done.

Most child soldiers worldwide fight for rebel groups. To best combat the issue Germany advocates for the strengthening the sanctions and punishments in the Convention of the Rights of the Child to get more nations to end the use of minors as soldiers. Next, Germany wants to identify regions where it is not safe for children to reside inside countries undergoing civil wars and relocate them while giving them the necessary care and aid they need. Cutting off the supply of children that rebel groups can abduct will make less kids end up as child soldiers. To stop rebel groups from using child soldiers the UN should issue bounties on the heads of the leaders who advocate for these types of soldiers until they stop using them in combat and release them to UN aid workers.

## ITALY

I. Adoption has been a wonderful alternative to give children in difficult situations regarding the absence of parental figures due to various reasons a second chance to grow up in a healthy surrounding. Italy is a firm supporter of children's wellbeing and has a strong belief that a key factor in the development of a child's life is, in fact, the environment they grow up and are raised in. In this instance, family is the most important element; they provide support, love and utmost protection.

Therefore, Italy being part of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption accepts and reaffirms the importance of giving children a loving family where they can establish strong bonds and have a sense of belonging, a natural necessity of the human being independently of the country or nationality they belonged to before. To achieve this, Italy acknowledges the imminent threats that come in hand with intercountry adopting processes; with the purpose to cease perils corresponding to child laundering, child trafficking, abuse and exploitation of minors, etc., meticulous action must be taken by UNICEF when settling an official adoption between two countries. Consequently the requirements established in the Hague Adoption Convention must be followed consciously with the child's necessities as a priority.

Nonetheless adoption should be promoted avidly in order to increase the number of adopted children and decrease numbers in orphanages. In the most recent report of the EuroAdopt Council Meeting published on February 2014 states that in the year of 2013, 2.825 children, coming from 56 different countries, were adopted by 2.291 Italian couples. Comparing to the previous year intercountry adoption decreased by 9.1% in entering children and 7.2% in adoptive parents. In order to stop the downfall of adoption rates around the world we must promote the process in as many countries as possible and reducing difficulties within the process itself for the sake of increasing the statistics and with it, the number of children who will be able to relish a new family.

Topic II: War violates every right children have. They are separated from their family in most cases, be a consequence of military recruitment or simply by the immense number of victims of death that are result of armed conflicts. The indices of poverty ascend in an accelerated pace, provoking a decrease in education opportunities and less access to healthcare. Not even mentioning the practically inexistent security for all the population, but specifically to children. Keeping in mind the constant crisis and conflict existing in many countries of the world, it is a priority to maintain the security of the youth in order to prevent possible traumas, immeasurable loss and specifically, a phenomenon that has been long existing but because of the uprising collision between countries, politics and external issues has increased in numbers exponentially compared to previous years; child soldiers. Not only an immediate solution must be found to prevent a larger amount of infants to be trained as soldiers and sent to death against their will, but a conclusion has yet to be applied in order to decrease the amount of children who are already fighting for political interests that have nothing to do with them. Therefore, member states must work together with UNICEF to shield the protection of the youth by providing opportunities to children in war zones, shelter, healthcare and sentence the responsible "authority/political group" blameworthy of risking children's lives at their own interests

## JAPAN

I. As it is known, the one and only purpose of UNICEF is to mutually collaborate with others in the promotion of humanitarian aid as well as developmental assistance to children and mothers across the world, providing the best future options for children, which could include moving them away from their respective natal countries and parents if necessary.

Following UNICEF's purpose to increase children's quality of life and after participating in the Hague Adoption Convention 1993, Japan has created several authorities to promote transnational adoption which would, among other things, do the following:

Ensure that inter-county adoptions take place in the best interest of the child; that the consent of the birth mother has been given only after the birth of the child; act according to the child's wishes and opinions; Take appropriate measures to prevent financial gain with adoptions.

In addition, the country collaborates with fellow partner countries when transnational adopting, making a process of home studying in order to get to know the prospective adoptive parents, so that way, the respective authority can decide the best matching for the child.

Also concerned about the children's desires and benefit, Japan has also been fighting against child abduction. Abduction is mostly committed by dysfunctional married couples. Since the country joined the Hague Convention of Abduction in 2014, the cases of transnational children abduction decreased to 35% by 2015.

Through the use of pacific methods, Japan will follow every statement proposed in the present document, and will mutually collaborate with fellow nations with the purpose of achieving set goal.

II. Japan is deeply concerned for the children's position and situation in armed conflict around the world. Every person deserves to live their fullest in an early age, away from anything that could harm mentally or physically. Unfortunately, armed conflicts leave children vulnerable stuck in between the battlefield.

In 2004, Japan ratified the Rights of the Child on Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict Treaty, which states that every participating member of the treaty should fully support the prevention of children's participation in armed conflicts, while supplying with beneficial resources to lend support to afflicted infants.

With the purpose of helping children overcome their own devastating situations in armed conflicts, Japan contributes financially to solve this issue, apportioning over US\$189.5 million in 2014, and collaborating with UNESCO to give away school supplies to damaged education centers affected by war.

## NORWAY

I. In regards to the topic of transnational adoption, Norway has been one of the leading countries supporting it. Norway believes that international adoption is a great method for giving childless families a way to start one and be happy. Rules and regulations permit this form of adoption to be legal, and prevent any illegal activities. Norway is convinced that international adoption is a great thing and can truly make a difference in people's lives. Keeping in mind the negative claims against UNICEF, Norway is willing to stand in support of UNICEF and their practice of transnational adoption.

Norway calls upon the assembly to consider how to help UNICEF increase their adoption rates. Norway has come up with a few ideas, such as:

- 1) Start to filter out the kids from the orphanages and homeless shelters so that a family can have a child and a child can be exposed to a family, house, and proper food.
- 2) Allow more candidate families to be accepted
- 3) Allow for more schools and educated children so prospective parents can be impressed while the students get an education they deserve.

Norway recommends that international adoption be continued and allow more kids the life they deserve. Thank you.

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## REPUBLIC OF DJIBOUTI

I. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a program within the United Nations that brings up problems that pertain to conflicts with children in countries that are still developing economically, and politically. They work for children's rights and survival, development, and protection. The Convention on the Rights of the Child addresses how one of the rights of every child is to grow up in a family considered environment and be cared for their family if that is possible. Although assistance will be provided to the family for caring for the child if it is needed, however, if the child's family is unable or unwilling to then stable care options will be given to the child. One of the stable care options are intercountry adoptions which UNICEF supports. In the 1993 Hague Convention on the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoptions set requirements and responsibilities for the authorities of countries controlling which children leave for adoption and enter for adoption. It is structured to ensure ethics and transparency is intact. The principals of intercountry adoptions act as guidelines through the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This convention entails that adoptions of the child are authorized by competent authorized individuals and improper financial gain isn't a result of the adoption process. This ensures the child isn't part of any illegal practices

It is suspected that UNICEF has begun to become against intercountry adoption even though UNICEF has maintained their view that intercountry adoption is one of the many solutions for orphaned children. Djibouti isn't interested in inter-country adoptions. It is also concerned with having affective authority over civil aspects of child abduction and complying with costs that come with assessing the children, legal applications and the final; not able to change, return of children. Only 9 african countries have ratified the Hague convention, not including Djibouti. Djibouti wants a great increase in transparency, as well as the rest of the AU. They also want the issue of imprisoned mothers to be addressed in Convention on the Rights of the Child. Djibouti want UNICEF to ensure the law tries as far as possible to ensure that children are cared for in families and communities within their countries of origin.

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## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

I. Russia has been one of the top three nations of origin for adoption since the fall of the Soviet Union in the 1990s. Russian adoption policies were generally less restrictive to prospective parents' ability to adopt as well as the ability of the children to be adopted compared to other countries. However, much like many other nations, they have closed their borders to international adoption due to the concerns of kidnapping, corruption and abuse. President Vladimir Putin signed a law on December 28, 2012, preventing any United States citizen from adopting a Russian child after several reports of the deaths of Russian children by their adoptive parents.

As international adoptions have been rapidly dropping over the years, all while the number of orphans appears to do nothing but grow, there is a need for more overarching policies to prevent violence against the children. Russia is standing by their law against American adoption, unless there are significant changes in the USCIS policies on eligibility. Prospective parents' should have to go through more thorough background checks and mental review before being allowed to adopt. UNICEF should build on their child-centric principles, originally based off of the 1993 Hague Convention by increasing in the amount of review parents face to ensure the safety of the children.

II. The rights of children become more dire in the face of the armed conflicts currently occurring in many different states. Russia stands in favor of punishment and prosecution of all who have committed human rights violations against children. The most concerning of the six violations are the non selective use of force or unmanned aerial vehicles during planned attacks that result in the death or maiming of children. Despite the urgency of this problem, Russia believes that there is a strong lack of clear criteria between the UN and the governments of countries declared to be "persistent perpetrators" has lead to a lack of trust concerning the ability of the UN approach this issue with objectivity and effectiveness. There should be open communication with the countries in question to construct an active solution that the countries would abide by.

Russia stands by the need to communicate directly with countries in question due to the disregard of the previous resolutions that outline clear procedures and criteria for listing and delisting of parties to a conflict. The interpretation of the concept of armed conflict has been twisted throughout the years, leading to a lack of respect for these resolutions and other decisions in favor of protection of children among the countries facing charges of violations against children. There needs to be an increased amount respect among the countries and the UN before any real change can be enacted.

## SPAIN

I. International adoption is the adoption of children from one country to another. Globally, the number of orphans being adopted by parents from other nations dropped from a high of 45,000 in 2004 to an estimated 25.000 last year. according to annual statistics compiled by Peter Selman. an expert on international adoptions

at Britain's Newcastle University. Spain is not considered a country of origin in intercountry adoption. There are few children eligible for adoption, with a long waiting list of Spanish prospective adoptive parents. Most international adoptions in Spain are by legal residents of Spain who adopt in third countries. While legally possible, intercountry adoption of a Spanish orphan by foreigners is unlikely. International adoption has become increasingly popular in Spain over the last years. Among other things, this upward trend stems from a higher domestic demand for adoption on one hand, and an insufficient number of Spanish children to adopt on the other hand.

Spain believes adoptions should occur keeping all the interests of the child in mind. Spain strongly encourages the continuation of collaboration between countries, along with stronger enforcement of regulations to protect rights of adopted children. Spain also promotes the development of adoption programs in underdeveloped countries to ensure the welfare of the children participating in said programs. Spain promotes inter-country adoption in the international community, backed by the idea that setting children up for success early in life with a loving, supportive family. These children would be ready to positively influence their country and world with a head start. Spain should have this position on international adoption to prevent the abuse of internationally adopted children.

II. Spain adds great importance to the efforts made by the International Community and the United Nations to put an end to the use of children in armed conflict. Spain believes that ending the recruitment and use of children in armed warfare is very important. Spain strongly supports any initiative to put an end to this. The protection of the children must be the main goal, from the beginning, in everyone's mind and this should be their intentions. It should be recalled that children accused of committing crimes while belonging to an armed group should be considered as victims. Spain recognizes the use of children as soldiers to be one of the most severe threats to peace.

According to Human Rights Watch, more than 500,000 children as young as age twelve have been recruited for armed conflict. Furthermore, this has occurred in 85 or more countries all the way down to the village-level. Often, recruitment is by abduction, thus demanding a strong international response to end this global plight. Spain sets forth a zero-tolerance policy for the abuse of child soldiers. In article 38 of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child sets the minimum age for recruitment and participation in hostilities at 15. This age must be raised from 15 to 18, the minimum age of voluntary military service in Spain. Comprehensive action combating the global plight of child soldiers is the indeed the only acceptable solution.

## SWEDEN

I. First of all, transnational adoption is a type of adoption in which an individual of couple becomes the legal and permanent parent(s) of a child who is a national of a different country. In Sweden adoptions are a very sensitive issue. One out of every 50 children is an adoptee in Sweden. We believe adopting kids from another country can help everybody, especially kids. They can have the family they deserve and a life far away. We need to help the families that cannot keep their babies in other places, and sometimes the best home for the kids is far away from where they were born.

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## NETHERLANDS

I. Having signed the Hague Adoption Convention in 1993, the Netherlands wholly supports international adoption, subject to proper regulations. The ability to provide a child in need with a loving family should never be in question, especially if all that stands in the way are some pesky international borders. This topic is incredibly relevant, as resolutions developed on it would impact the very idea of family globally.

The increasing interconnectedness of the global community should be reflected in the treatment of adoption cases. Adoption policies such as those incorporated in the CHIFF legislation in the United States of America should be extended to international circumstances. Such policies basically recognize the right and significance of any child to have a nurturing family as permanently as possible, and prioritize the placement of children in the best environment possible for them.

The qualifications for international adoption should be broadened, as to encourage the process along. The best example of such applies to same-sex couples. The Netherlands recognizes same-sex marriage, yet adoptions under such relationships are legally considered akin to that of a single parent. The Netherlands heartily proposes that any married couple, considering of course that they be subject to the same qualifications as a couple of any other gender mix.

The well-being of parentless children worldwide being at stake, this issue could be of no greater importance. Every child, regardless of circumstance, deserves the right to a family that would love and support them. This committee should be devoted to the encouragement of increasing adoption rates worldwide, while ensuring that such processes are always made in the best interest of the child.

II. The vulnerability and susceptibility of children to suggestion makes any sort of involvement on their part in military proceedings a touchy subject at best. Currently, children in countries involved in internal conflicts are subject to all kinds of violence inflicted upon them, as well as their use as child soldiers. The purpose of this committee should be to ensure the safety of children in any situation of armed conflict, by setting safeguards and restrictions in place that would dissuade any future situations in which the well-being of a child would be in jeopardy.

It is currently global law that any person of or over the age of 18 may apply to be in the military of their own accord. In the Netherlands, the qualifications are furthered to include 17-year-olds in the military, so long as they agree to the terms with their signature and are guaranteed to stay out of direct hostilities. Military training programs and schools do exist for the purposes of training aspiring military members in expectation for their adulthood, and in no way expose youths to military violence before their time. In short, the Netherlands has done everything in its power to ensure proper preparations for aspiring military members while guaranteeing that their involvement not include any sort of genuine military operations.

Refugee children fleeing from conflict are difficult to handle on a general basis. Psychological trauma and general confusion often accompany anyone who has escaped from a hostile situation. The Netherlands proposes the right of any country to aid in coping methods as well as healthcare solutions to aid any child in need. The Netherlands also would prioritize the removal of children from armed conflict situations at all costs. as to



reduce any involvement of children in conflict as either soldiers or human shields. The involuntary military recruitment of children in any situation should be avoided at all costs.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

I. The delegate of the United States of America wants to say that we are in an agreement with the international adoption, meanwhile the rules of adoption of the present/active countries are fully cover in the right way. This will increase the change of the children to get a the quality of life they should have.

### II. Right of the children's rights on times of war or conflict

In the United States of America we are alarm about the security of the children around the world, but in times of war or conflict, we are seen the wrongful prioritizing on times of war. As a resolution we suggest to give preference to the kids when is time to move people out of the country as refugees of conflict or war where those rights cannot be taken away.

## ZAMBIA

I. Zambia is a country in the southern region of Africa, and we have a understanding of the benefits and risks of transnational adoption. We are currently in the process of reviewing our laws related to children, one of these possible topics being the adoption policies. As of currently, Zambia. Our country is not included in the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, but we follow the guide set by the 8 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 204.3 as it relates to orphans as defined under the Immigration and Nationality Act, Section 101(b)(1)(F).

We are currently undergoing length revisions to our adoption policies. Currently, we require the possible adoptive parents to be within our borders for at least 12 months , though this can sometimes be shortened to 3 months. Single parents are allowed to adopt, but a single man may not adopt a female child. This is for the protection of orphan girls within our nation, so we value their safety.

We are looking as a nation to improve our transnational policies. As a result, we hope that the caucus will come together in order to draft a better, more universal solution, as well as prioritize the safety of our orphans over the efficiency of the adoption process. We believe that parents must spend time in the country and form a bond with the child they will adopt. The safety and dignity of the children to be adopted comes first.

II. Zambia is a peaceful nation compared to its more conflict-ridden neighbors. In fact, Zambia has become a magnet for young, unattended refugee children. Many have witnessed and experienced great atrocity. And as our economy grows stronger each year, Zambia works hard to ensure that children's rights in our nation are up to date and with the times.

Some examples of new legislation include the draft Constitution and the draft Children's Code Bill. We have also accepted collaboration with UN Joint Programme on Protecting Migrant Children from Trafficking and Exploitation. Their contributions have included Guidelines for Protection Assistance to Vulnerable Migrants, and a National Referral Mechanism (NRM), which helps people around the country point migrants to a safe zone. We believe another key crucial factor is the sense of community. Many of the young orphans finding their ways to safety in our borders were found and delivered by members of the community they arrived in or came from. We also have the Save the Children Country Office, which specializes in raising awareness of children's issues and supporting their efforts in the government. This has been a successful project and we encourage others to take on similar programs.

However, despite our best efforts, there are still many flaws. We believe that other nations must create safe zones in their own borders as well to protect their children. Refugees in our Home Affairs are forced to wait for an average of 14 months for refugee status and violate Article 28 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the

Child (CRC) by missing education. As a result, they are less prepared to enter the workforce and far less ready to create success in the future for themselves and their families.