



# **THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S EMERGENCY FUND**

**BACKGROUND GUIDE**

**TOPIC: Preventing Online Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking of Minors**

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# 1. GREETING WORD

Esteemed Delegates of the UNICEF council,

We are very pleased to welcome you to the UNICEF Committee at AleMUN 2026. We are Pedro Oliveira and Maria Clara Tocantins and it is a true honor to serve as your chairs. In this debate, we will be discussing an issue that remains urgent and complex: "Preventing online sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors". This topic requires careful thought, empathy, and cooperation but, together, we hope you'll be able to develop strong and thoughtful solutions.

Whether this is your first MUN or not, we invite you to participate actively and confidently throughout our sessions. This committee is intended to be a space for learning, discussion, and respectful debate, where every contribution will help shape the course of our discussions. UNICEF works to protect and improve the lives of children around the world, ensuring that their rights are respected and their needs are met. Through diplomacy, respect, and open-minded debate, we are certain that this forum will foster innovative ideas and impactful resolutions that reflect the core values of UNICEF and the United Nations.

We sincerely look forward to sharing this experience with super ch dedicated and capable delegates and we are confident that this council will provide an enriching environment for productive debate, cooperation, and the exchange of meaningful ideas.

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to us! We wish you the best of luck in your preparation and eagerly anticipate the engaging debates and creative solutions that will emerge throughout our discussions.

Best regards,

Maria Clara T. & Pedro O.  
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# 2. THE UNICEF COMMITTEE

## 2.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund was established in 1946, in the aftermath of World War II. The intention of the organization was to help young people no matter what role their country had played in the war; what mattered to UNICEF was reaching every child in need. From 1947 to 1965, Maurice Pate worked as Executive Director of UNICEF and expanded its work to fulfil children's needs in a more comprehensive way, strengthening the idea that children are never the enemy and, therefore, their needs should be of greater importance than politics.

Only in 1953 did UNICEF become a permanent United Nations agency. Between 1956 and 1957, over thirteen thousand maternal and child welfare centers received UNICEF supplies and technical training in over a hundred different countries. In 1959 the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child defined children's rights to protection, education, healthcare, shelter, and good nutrition. In 1965 the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to UNICEF for the "promotion of brotherhood among nations."

In 1982 UNICEF launched the Child Survival and Development Revolution. In 1990, 159 United Nations Member States adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most universally approved human rights treaty for the protection of children. In 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic gripped the world, UNICEF played a key role in the global vaccine distribution plan through the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access Facility.

## 2.2 STRUCTURE OF THE UNICEF COUNCIL

The governing body of UNICEF is called the Executive Board, which provides intergovernmental support and oversight to the organization, in accordance with the overall policy guidance of the United Nations General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The Executive Board reviews UNICEF activities and approves its policies, country programs, and budgets. It comprises 36 members representing the five regional groups of Member States at the United Nations.

Its work is coordinated by the Bureau, comprising the President and four Vice Presidents, each officer representing one of the five regional groups. The Executive Board meets three times each year: in a regular session, an annual session, and a second regular session. Executive Board sessions are held at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

## 2.3 UNICEF MISSIONS

The goal of UNICEF is to protect the rights of every child, especially the most disadvantaged and those hardest to reach. The organization works across over 190 countries and territories to provide aid so that children can survive, thrive, and live to their full potential. UNICEF provides and advocates for education, health, and nutrition services, as well as protecting children from violence and abuse.

Not only is UNICEF the world's largest provider of vaccines, but it is also in charge of the biggest humanitarian warehouse to ever exist. The work done by UNICEF personnel is funded entirely through voluntary contributions, and the organization shows full transparency about where their resources come from and where they go.

# 3. TOPIC BACKGROUND

The rapid growth of social media and digital platforms has created new opportunities for people to communicate and access information, especially for younger generations. However, the increased use of online spaces has also exposed millions of minors to serious dangers, including online sexual exploitation and trafficking. Criminals often use social media, gaming platforms, and messaging apps to manipulate and exploit children, taking advantage of their vulnerability and limited online protection.

Online sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors can occur through grooming, blackmail, coercion, and the sharing of explicit content. In many cases, traffickers target children who face emotional or social vulnerabilities, using fake promises and manipulation to gain their trust. The anonymity of the internet makes it harder for authorities to identify criminals and protect victims, making this one of the biggest challenges of the digital age.

## 3.1 CURRENT SITUATION

Over the past few decades, sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors have evolved significantly. In the past, exploitation and trafficking mainly occurred through physical networks and direct contact. However, with the expansion of social media, messaging apps, and online platforms, criminals gained new tools to approach, manipulate, and exploit children more easily and anonymously.

Today, online sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors continue to affect thousands of children around the world. The widespread use of social media, online games, and messaging platforms has made it easier for criminals to contact and manipulate minors, often through fake identities and emotional manipulation. Many victims are targeted because of emotional vulnerability, lack of supervision, or limited awareness about online dangers.

Although many countries and international organizations have adopted laws and campaigns to combat these crimes, the rapid development of technology continues to create new challenges for authorities.

The online platforms' anonymity and the difficulty of monitoring digital activities often allow traffickers and exploiters to avoid punishment, making international cooperation and stronger online protection measures increasingly necessary. Protecting minors in digital spaces has become not only a national responsibility, but also a global challenge that requires urgent action.

## 3.2 RESEARCH MATERIAL FOR ALL DELEGATES

<https://www.unicef.org/protection/children-in-a-digital-world>

<https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Crimes-against-children/Online-child-sexual-exploitation>

<https://ecpat.org/what-we-do/online-child-sexual-exploitation>

<https://www.weprotect.org/global-threat-assessment-2023>

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-statistics/crime-areas/child-sexual-exploitation>

# 4. IMPORTANT PREPARATION FOR THE DEBATE

## 4.1 TOPICS TO FOCUS ON DURING THE DEBATE

- The role of social media and digital platforms in online exploitation;
- Online grooming, coercion, and manipulation of minors;
- International cooperation in combating online trafficking networks;
- Government policies and legislation for child online protection;
- The responsibility of technology companies in preventing online exploitation;
- Digital education and online safety awareness for children and families;
- Challenges in identifying and prosecuting online offenders.

## 4.2 GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- How effective are current international laws and policies regarding child online protection?
- What role should technology companies and digital platforms play in preventing online exploitation?
- How can schools and families help educate minors about online safety?
- What measures can governments adopt to improve the protection of minors in digital spaces?
- How can countries balance online privacy with stronger monitoring and protection policies?
- What specific challenges do developing nations face in combating online exploitation?
- How can international organizations such as UNICEF, INTERPOL, and Europol better coordinate responses?
- In what ways do poverty and economic inequality increase children's vulnerability to online exploitation?

# 5. IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTRIES

## 5.1 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The United States faces many online grooming and sexual exploitation cases involving minors, especially due to the widespread use of major social media and digital communication platforms. The country's response involves a complex enforcement structure divided between federal, state, and local authorities, which can create coordination challenges during cybercrime investigations and trafficking cases. Debates regarding encryption, data privacy, and the cooperation between technology companies and law enforcement agencies remain central to the United States' approach to fight online exploitation and protect minors in digital spaces.

<https://www.missingkids.org>  
<https://www.justice.gov/criminal-ceos>  
<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/cac>  
<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>

## 5.2 FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL

Brazil has strengthened its cybercrime enforcement structures and reporting systems in recent years to combat online sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors more effectively. Cases of online grooming and exploitation are frequently associated with platforms such as WhatsApp and Instagram, widely used throughout the country. Although Brazilian authorities have expanded digital monitoring and child protection initiatives, major regional inequalities remain, especially in rural areas and favela communities, where limited access to digital protection systems continues to increase minors' vulnerability to online exploitation.

<https://www.gov.br/mdh/pt-br>  
<https://www.unicef.org/brazil>  
<https://www.childhood.org.br>  
<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>

## 5.3 RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Russia has expanded its cybercrime enforcement architecture through specialized cyber police units and digital monitoring agencies responsible for investigating online crimes involving minors and harmful online content. Due to the country's large digital population and widespread internet among younger generations, concerns regarding online grooming and sexual exploitation continue to grow. Russia also faces challenges related to cross-border cybercrime networks, where many online exploitation cases involve digital platforms and actors operating outside national jurisdiction.

<https://www.unicef.org/protection/children-in-digital-world>  
<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>  
<https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-statistics/crime-areas/child-sexual-exploitation>

## 5.4 REPUBLIC OF INDIA

India has one of the largest online populations in the world, with millions of children and teenagers using social media and digital platforms daily, increasing concerns regarding online grooming and sexual exploitation. Cases of online abuse are often connected to platforms such as WhatsApp, Instagram, and regional-language applications where moderation may be less effective. Although India has expanded cybercrime investigations and strengthened legislation, enforcement remains fragmented between federal cybercrime agencies and state-level police forces, creating operational challenges.

<https://www.unicef.org/india>

<https://cybercrime.gov.in>

<https://ecpat.org>

<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>

## 5.5 FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

Germany has developed a strong enforcement structure to combat online sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors, including specialized federal cybercrime units that work alongside state-level police forces to investigate digital crimes. The country plays an important role in European Union initiatives against online child exploitation, cooperating closely with Europol and supporting EU digital regulation frameworks. Germany also debates the balance between stronger platform regulation and the protection of digital privacy and encryption rights.

<https://www.bka.de>

<https://www.unicef.org/germany>

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-statistics/crime-areas/child-sexual-exploitation>

<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>

## 5.6 FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

Nigeria has one of the largest and fastest-growing youth internet populations in Africa, increasing concerns regarding minors' exposure to online grooming, trafficking, and sexual exploitation. Social media and messaging platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp are widely used and have become important channels for recruitment and manipulation by criminal networks. Significant challenges remain, including limited cybercrime infrastructure, regional disparities in law enforcement capacity, and the underreporting of online abuse cases.

<https://www.unicef.org/nigeria>

<https://www.unicef.org/protection/children-in-digital-world>

<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>

## 5.7 UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The United Kingdom has developed a strong institutional structure to combat online sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors, particularly through agencies such as the National Crime Agency (NCA), which plays an important role in cybercrime investigations and cross-border operations. The country has expanded its Online Safety regulatory framework, increasing pressure on digital platforms to remove harmful content and cooperate with authorities. The United Kingdom actively participates in international coordination efforts alongside organizations such as Europol, INTERPOL, and global task forces focused on fighting child exploitation.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk> <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/national-crime-agency>  
<https://www.unicef.org.uk>

## 5.8 ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

Egypt has expanded cybercrime enforcement structures and digital monitoring mechanisms in recent years as part of its efforts to combat online sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors. The rapid growth of smartphone access and social media usage among younger generations has increased minors' exposure to online grooming, manipulation, and exploitation risks. Egypt's geographic position within North Africa and the Middle East also makes the country an important regional transit hub for trafficking networks

. <https://www.unicef.org/egypt> <https://www.unicef.org/protection/children-in-digital-world>  
<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>

## 5.9 REPUBLIC OF KOREA

South Korea has developed advanced digital monitoring and real-time takedown systems to combat online sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors, allowing authorities and online platforms to identify and remove harmful content more quickly. The country has faced several high-profile digital sexual crime cases involving messaging applications and online exploitation networks, which became major drivers for stricter cybercrime legislation. South Korea has strengthened cooperation between law enforcement agencies and domestic technology companies.

<https://www.unicef.org/korea>  
<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>  
<https://www.oecd.org>

## 5.10 UNITED MEXICAN STATES

Mexico faces serious challenges regarding online sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors due to the strong connection between trafficking networks and organized criminal groups operating within the country. Cross-border dynamics with the United States also play an important role, as digital platforms are often used to facilitate recruitment, exploitation, and trafficking activities across borders. Significant regional disparities and limited cybercrime infrastructure in some areas continue to affect the country's enforcement capacity.

<https://www.unicef.org/mexico>  
<https://www.unicef.org/protection/children-in-digital-world>  
<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>

## 5.11 PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

China has implemented a highly centralized system of online regulation in which major domestic technology companies are closely monitored and required to cooperate with government authorities in content control and takedown operations. Due to the massive number of internet users among younger generations, the country represents one of the world's largest digital environments, increasing concerns regarding minors' exposure to online exploitation. China has expanded cyber monitoring and online protection policies, although its approach generates international debate regarding the balance between state surveillance, online safety, and digital privacy rights.

<https://www.unicef.org/china>

<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>

<https://www.unicef.org/protection/children-in-digital-world>

## 5.12 KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

Saudi Arabia has experienced a rapid digital transformation in recent years, accompanied by very high social media usage among younger generations, which has increased concerns regarding online grooming and the sexual exploitation of minors. The country's approach to online regulation is strongly influenced by its religious and legal framework. In response to growing digital risks, Saudi Arabia has strengthened cybercrime units, expanded online reporting systems, and increased monitoring and enforcement measures to identify and prosecute cases involving online exploitation and trafficking of minors.

<https://www.unicef.org/mena>

<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>

<https://www.unicef.org/protection/children-in-digital-world>

## 5.13 REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippines is internationally recognized as one of the countries most affected by livestream-based online sexual exploitation of minors, making it a major hotspot for digital exploitation networks. Poverty and economic vulnerability play a significant role in the issue, as some minors are exploited through family or community-based arrangements connected to online income generation. The country has strengthened specialized cybercrime units and expanded cooperation between law enforcement agencies, NGOs, and international organizations.

<https://www.unicef.org/philippines>

<https://ecpat.org>

<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>

## 5.14 REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE

Türkiye plays an important role in regional efforts against online sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors due to its geographic position between Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia, which makes the country a significant transit and digital recruitment hub for trafficking networks. The high use of social media and digital platforms among Turkish youth has also increased concerns regarding online grooming, manipulation, and exploitation risks. Türkiye has strengthened cybercrime investigations and expanded online monitoring practices.

<https://www.unicef.org/turkiye>

<https://www.unicef.org/protection/children-in-digital-world>

<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>

## 5.15 FRENCH REPUBLIC

France plays a central role in European Union digital regulation frameworks aimed at combating online sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors, particularly through cooperation with Europol and the implementation of policies connected to the Digital Services Act (DSA). The country has strengthened national cybercrime units and expanded coordination between police authorities, the judiciary, and digital platforms to investigate online exploitation cases more effectively. France also actively debates the balance between platform accountability and the protection of digital privacy and encryption rights.

<https://www.unicef.org/france>

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-statistics/crime-areas/child-sexual-exploitation>

<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>

## 5.16 REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa faces growing concerns regarding online sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors due to the rapid expansion of internet access and social media usage among younger generations. Online grooming and exploitation cases are frequently linked to platforms such as WhatsApp, Facebook, and other messaging applications. Although South Africa has strengthened cybercrime legislation and ALEMUN 2026 expanded cooperation between specialized cybercrime units and child protection organizations, significant challenges remain, including unequal enforcement capacity and the vulnerability of children in low-income communities.

<https://www.unicef.org/southafrica>

<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>

<https://ecpat.org>

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<https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Crimes-against-children>

<https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Crimes-against-children/Online-child-sexual-exploitation>

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-statistics/crime-areas/child-sexual-exploitation>

<https://ecpat.org/what-we-do/online-child-sexual-exploitation>

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<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/violent-crime/cac>

<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/children> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/children>

<https://www.thorn.org> <https://www.childnet.com>

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/children/end-online-child-sexual-exploitation-abuse>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/children-rights/>

<https://www.hrw.org/topic/childrens-rights>

<https://www.oecd.org/digital/children-online.htm>