ISSUE 2: REDUCING AND RESTRICTING CHILD LABOUR WORLDWIDE

ECOSOC

Issue description:

Child labour is work done by children that is harmful to their physical or mental development, may stop them from attending school, many working hours and done by children below the minimum working age. In 2024 138 million children were involved in child labour, so it's a big issue. Examples of child labour are jobs in the agriculture or industry.

Why has this issue not been resolved:

The main reason comes down to poverty and economic insecurity. Families depend on their child's earnings. Regulating it is also difficult since many children work in informal sectors that are difficult to monitor, or because the country simply lacks inspectors. In some cultures, and societies, it is also seen as normal. Also, when education is unavailable, children are often more likely or forced to work.

Simply banning it won't stop the problem

Important stances on the issue:

UNICEF: stop children from hazardous work. Emphasizes education and social protection.

Developing countries/LDCs: may corporate but only with strong international assistance. They may resist approaches that make strict restrictions without providing alternatives for the children and their families.

What organisations are involved and what has been done:

UNICEF: works on education, child protections and child exploitation

ILO: same as UNICEF

UN: took measures to stop forced labour and stop the worst forms of child labour

Alliance 8.7: international partnership including governments, UN agencies, employers that aim to reduce child labour