DEVELOPING POLICIES TO FURTHER ABOLISH MODERN SLAVERYDEVELOPING POLICIES TO FURTHER ABOLISH MODERN SLAVERY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2

Issue Description

Modern slavery includes forced labour, human trafficking, forced marriage, and other forms of exploitation. It affects millions of people worldwide, especially migrant workers, children, and people living in poverty. It occurs in industries such as agriculture, construction, manufacturing, fishing, and domestic work.

Why Has It Not Been Resolved?

Modern slavery is difficult to detect because it is often hidden. Poverty, conflict, corruption, and unsafe migration can make people vulnerable. Different countries also have different laws and levels of enforcement. Complex international supply chains make it difficult to identify forced labour.

Stances

1. Western countries

Generally support stronger laws, victim protection, criminal prosecution, and greater responsibility for companies to prevent forced labour in their supply chains.

2. Developing and labour-sending countries

Support worker protection but may worry that strict regulations could reduce jobs, trade, or foreign investment. They often call for more international cooperation.

3. International organizations and NGOs

Organizations such as the ILO, IOM, and UNODC support stronger international cooperation, victim protection, and action against human trafficking.

4. Businesses

Many businesses support ending forced labour but may be concerned about the cost of monitoring complex supply chains. Human-rights groups argue that companies should be held accountable for exploitation in their supply chains.

Organizations and Actions

- ILO — develops labour standards and works to eliminate forced labour.

- IOM — protects migrants and works to prevent human trafficking.
- UNODC — helps countries fight human trafficking and organized crime.
- UNICEF — protects children from trafficking and exploitation.
- Governments and NGOs — can improve laws, protect victims, investigate abuse, and prosecute traffickers.

Questions for Delegates

- How can countries eliminate modern slavery without harming workers or economies?
- Should companies be legally responsible for forced labour in their supply chains?
- How can migrant workers be better protected from exploitation?
- How can victims safely report slavery without fear of punishment or deportation?
- How can countries cooperate more effectively to prosecute traffickers?

Sources

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