



Delegates representing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea work on another controversial drawing.

Challenging child labour practices

By
BBC

Based on data from UNICEF, the International Labour Organization and the World Bank state that 168 million children aged five to seventeen worldwide are subject to child labour.

The issue of child labour was discussed heavily during the International Labour Organization meeting where sixteen delegates met to come up with a resolution pertaining to international labour standards and socially inclusive globalization.

A delegate representing France, said, "France believes that the member states have a responsibility to encourage the countries within their borders to adhere to certain standards for corporations so that they can effectively ensure security, progress and work toward attainability for the best human rights."

When it comes to labour standards, children are often the focal point of concern, however, the solutions suggested to combat the issue vary by country.

For Pakistan, investing in infrastructure to create more schools and making schools more accessible to children living in rural areas is of the utmost importance.

"Pakistan believes that if we want to pull children out of labour exploitation we need to have infrastructure or have adequate environment for them in order to obtain schooling," a delegate representing Pakistan said.

Another solution that received heavy support from delegates was that of conditional cash transfers.

A delegate representing Nigeria said there are already programs like this in China, Morocco and Brazil that encourage rural families to send their children to school using financial incentives.

"What China specifically does is they have funding from the local level and the central level of the government to send rural children to school, and the term that is used is 'conditional cash transfers,'" the Nigerian delegate said. "This means that families can take money out of this fund on the condition that the money is used for the children's education."

While most of the developing countries wanted to include work councils in their resolution, Iran appeared strongly opposed to the idea due to their use of democratically elected worker unions in the country. A compromise was eventually made by changing the wording to 'national workers unions.'

"That way, it was not specified between governmental workers unions, community based workers unions, industry based workers unions and could more easily be applied to the forced, child and migrant labor conditions of other countries in the room," said a delegate representing Germany.

The definition given by a delegate representing France said that work councils are defined as committees that discuss work conditions while looking out for both the employers and employees; this way, human rights violations and exploitative practices can be prevented or stopped.

While the majority of the discussion revolved around child labour, the focus quickly moved to education as an important factor in addressing the root of the problem.

A delegate representing Iran, said, "we're essentially using education as a way to reduce child labour."

Believing the solution lies in the economic incentives, a delegate representing Jordan said that conditional cash transfers are one of the most important aspects of providing support to those in poverty.

DPRK raises the tension with 'a promise of what could happen'

By
Xinhua

When the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) sent South Korea a drawing of what many are referring to as a threat during GA 3rd Committee on Thursday morning, it fanned the flames of an already tense situation between the two countries.

To further ignite the tension, DPRK sent two more drawings to countries in the room: Nigeria and the United States of America.

One of the drawings in question showed a nuclear bomb on its way to South Korea while the other notes included a drawing of Boko Haram soldiers in Nigeria and a list of mass shootings that have happened in the U.S. since the late 1990's.

A delegate representing the DPRK, said, "It's not a real bomb but more of a promise of what could happen."

Another delegate representing the DPRK, said, "the note included that cooperation will end after the Olympics, but not

before, because we enjoy a good show."

When asked if they received a response to the drawings, the DPRK representatives said that they did not receive a written reply but did receive backlash for sending the drawings.

In addressing the criticism they received as a result of their actions, the DPRK representatives said that they would not be willing to work with South Korea in the future because by working with them, they would be acknowledging South Korea's legitimacy as a sovereign state.

"We sent the note to Fake Korea because we (The DPRK) are the one true Korea," a DPRK delegate said.

The delegation at the time was in formal meeting discussing other issues when the DPRK sent this message.

Some countries, such as Iran, said that they were in support of the DPRK's actions.

A delegate representing Iran,

said, "I believe that the great and one Korea has been very helpful in this time of needing cultural awareness, and we will come out of this as great allies. We stand behind the DPRK's decision to send their note as we know action may be necessary in the future."

The delegate representing China has kept in contact with the DPRK throughout each session but has paid special attention to DPRK's actions from the sidelines without formally taking a stance on the controversy.

In future discussions, the DPRK says they will continue to stay away from signing onto working papers with countries they deem to be acting opposite to their own values.

Instead, the DPRK said that they will continue to give speeches and stay committed to allies such as Iran and China.

Updates will occur as action in the third committee continues, and as solutions arise.

Crisis in Security Council South

When a shipment of highly-enriched uranium went missing in transport to Russia, Security Council South prepared for the worst.

Kazatomprom, the national operator of Kazakhstan for the import and export of uranium, earth metals and nuclear fuel components, reported that the truck used to ship the uranium was eventually located but was missing one-third of the radioactive element used by the military

to power nuclear weapons.

Shortly after the uranium was determined to be missing, two dirty bombs thought to contain the stolen uranium were detonated in New Delhi, India and Rabat, Morocco.

The blasts caused at least seven confirmed deaths and dozens of injuries as well as provoking protests around the world criticizing the government for lack of transparency in handling the crisis. Hours after the first two

attacks, authorities located two more undetonated dirty bombs that were en route to Singapore and Brazil on cargo ships. ISIL has claimed responsibility for all of the acts.

At this point in time, Security Council South has discussed border security, nuclear disarmament and possibly placing sanctions on Kazakhstan since the shipment went missing in-country, however, no plan of action has been determined yet.

Picking sides over Israel and Palestine

By
Al Jazeera

“The children should be playing soccer instead of being tortured by Israeli soldiers,” said a delegate representing Peru in the fourth committee of the General Assembly, Special Political and Decolonization.

The committee agenda was set to discuss the ‘Human Rights of the Palestinian People in the Occupied Territory, including East Jerusalem.’

Immediately after delving into the topic, delegates began to gather in groups of strategic alliances based on similar interests and plans of action.

Among the groups of countries around the room, the United States began crafting ideas for food aid, land protection, clean water, sanitation, healthcare and education with European allies.

Forming another group of allies, a joint alliance of Russia and various Middle Eastern, African and Latin American countries gathered with the motive to provide Palestinians with basic human rights and declare Palestine to be an independent state.

In addressing the controversial divide between support for Palestinians and support for Israelis, a U.S. delegate said, “basic human rights should always be taken into consideration but for the peace and stability of the Middle East region, there never will be any two-state solution regarding the Palestine-Israel issue.”

In regard to the U.S. withholding \$65 million out of a \$125 million aid package planned for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), the U.S. delegate said, “The United States is already too expanded in international affairs so it doesn’t want to further expand its aid programs.”

Stating that suffering is not solely confined to Palestinians, a delegate representing the United Kingdom said there are Israelis who are facing bad

situations as well.

“For a productive society of Palestinians, we should emphasize on education,” said a delegate from Ireland.

Advocating for the idea of self-determination along with basic human rights, a delegate of Ghana said that states should attempt to push Israel to the negotiation table, while a delegate of Iraq said that it is hypocritical for the U.S to continue promoting human rights while simultaneously having

While many states were hesitant to declare Palestine a sovereign state, it appeared a little easier for states to determine that military oppression was a problem faced by Palestinians in West Bank and Gaza.

According to Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), in 2004, Iraq, the occupied West Bank, and the Gaza Strip remained three of the most dangerous places for journalists to cover in the Middle East due to the unpredictability of the Israeli troops and potential protests.

Another issue faced by Palestinian journalists pertains to how difficult it can be for them to obtain permits to work in Palestinian Occupied Territories from Israel’s Government Press Office. By denying Palestinian reporters journalistic privileges, it takes away the ability for Palestinian’s to speak out and tell the world about the injustices they face.

Regardless, in addressing the recent visit by the President of India to Palestinian Territory, a delegate of India said, “India is making sure that peace prevails in the Middle East region and fully suggests a two-state solution.”

By the end of the session, two resolutions were presented by each group; one resolution presented by Iraq, Ethiopia, Tanzania, India, Nepal and Ghana, stating their commitment to providing resources to Palestinians and to declaring Palestine a sovereign state.

The other resolution, presented by China, Venezuela, UAE, Argentina and Turkey, denied the idea of a sovereign state but suggested providing humanitarian assistance regardless. It is not clear where the situation will head in the days to come but for now, the fate of millions of Palestinians hangs in the balance.



Delegates of SPECPOL vote on a resolution regarding human rights of Israelis and Palestinians.

its own issues to take care of pertaining to human rights. Indeed, when the U.S. invaded Iraq over a decade ago on the belief that the country possessed weapons of mass destruction, it set in motion a chain of reactions that has arguably helped facilitate the feelings of resentment that citizens of certain countries harbor for the U.S.

Some of the Latin American countries showed their support for the recognition of Palestine as a sovereign state while a delegate from Peru reminded the committee of a recent situation of injustice that a young Palestinian girl, Ahd Tamimi, had experienced while retaliating against Israeli soldiers.

LABOUR: ‘using education as a way to reduce child labour’ on an international level

“For developing states, the most significant reason they send children into labour is to help support our households, our families’ households, and just to be able to survive,” the Jordanian delegate said.

“Education would then not be a priority if you’re starving, so that’s mainly what we’re focusing on-- providing economic incentives to educate children in order to help develop the country as a whole.”

As with any plan, however, the issue of funding had to be determined before implementation could take place.

In deciding where the economic incentives for the plan would come from, the delegation’s answer was almost unanimous in selecting the Asian Infrastructure

Investment Bank (AIIB).

A delegate representing China clarified the AIIB’s role in the resolution, saying that it would work just as the International Monetary Fund or World Bank does with the conditional cash transfers in terms of money and interest rates.

According to proponents of the plan, it would also allow for the accumulation of capital and the allocation of resources toward beneficial investments and innovative projects in infrastructure.

The delegation for the International Labour Organization worked in collaboration to pass their draft resolution as well as to implement an international labour standard using socially inclusive globalization.

New details emerge in cyber attack report

When a South Korean news outlet tweeted Thursday about a cyber attack on the Olympic games, millions of people anxiously waited for new details concerning the attack.

Later that night, investigators uncovered evidence that the attack was carried out by a suspected terrorist organization, though, the precise reason for carrying out the act of terror is unknown. The perpetrators of the attack remain at large.

Security Council North battles crisis in Yemen

Reports of increased violence in the former Yemeni capital of Sana’a and surrounding Houthi-controlled areas emerged Wednesday evening as the result of a tense civil war that has been ongoing for years between the Houthi militants, the Yemeni central government and outside groups like al Qaeda.

Believed to stem from a Shia-majority Houthi militant group known as ‘Ansar Allah,’ citizens of the city have taken to social media to share pictures and videos depicting the brutal violence taking place.

An update from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that there have been around 200 deaths over the course of two days, saying, “It seems as though individuals are currently being targeted based on specific criteria.”

Further reports of Houthi militants “exterminating” Yemeni civilians suffering from cholera and famine have emerged in an attempt by the militants to create “a new, clean Yemen.” In a statement released by Houthi officials, Ansar Allah said they condemn the actions of the Saudi-led Coalition in Yemen, viewing the coalition as the cause of suffering for the Yemeni people.

In response, the Saudi-led Coalition decided to close land, sea and airports throughout the country in an attempt to prevent humanitarian aid from reaching the people of Yemen. At this point in time, Security Council North has explored several routes of action but has not yet reached a consensus.