



**General Assembly 4th  
Committee  
Chair Report**

“Promoting Sustainable Economic Recovery and Social Reintegration for Former Child Soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)”

**Chair: Sofia Li**

**Deputy Chair: Zita Justus**

## **Personal Statements**

**Head Chair – Sofia Li**



Dear Delegates,

My name is Sofia Li and I will be your head chair for GA4 in MUNISS 2024. I am going to be chairing alongside my fellow deputy chair Zita Justus.

I'm currently in the 10th grade at Frankfurt International School. So far I've been to five conferences, and this is my second as a student officer. It's my first time at MUNISS, but I'm sure it'll be a great experience!

As a committee, we will be discussing the issues of “Ensuring International Cooperation in Strategic and Military Operations in Space”, “Establishing Guidelines for the Operation of Military Bases Abroad”, and “Promoting Sustainable Economic Recovery and Social Reintegration for Former Child Soldiers in the DRC”.

And so, as delegates in GA4 (also called the ‘Special Political and Decolonization Committee’), we will be tackling these problems with an aim to find solutions to the generational and historically derived impacts of colonialism around the world.

While these can be challenging topics, I am sure that all delegates will be able to produce versatile and impactful clauses in order to combat the aforementioned issues. If you have any questions about the topics, this research report, or even any general questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [xi\\_li@fis.edu](mailto:xi_li@fis.edu).

See you all soon! Looking forward to meeting each and every one of you :)

## Deputy Chair – Zita Justus



Dear Delegates,

My name is Zita Justus, I'm 17 years old, and I'm currently in 11th grade at the International School of Hamburg. I have participated twice at the THIMUN conferences. In 2023 I was in the SDC 2 committee, representing the Syrian Arab Republic, and in 2024 I was in the HRC 2 committee representing Belarus. This will be my first time at MUNISS conference, but I'm excited to meet new people, and I'm sure it will be an amazing experience.

MUNISS is a student-run, small-scale Model UN (MUN) conference that provides a forum for global problem debate and diplomatic exercises. Participants (delegates) work together to solve challenges in the real world while representing various nations. MUNISS seeks to improve communication, negotiating, and critical thinking abilities.

GA4, also known as the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly, is a non-advanced committee in Model United Nations (MUN).

Participating in the GA4 committee can be an excellent first experience for delegates in Model United Nations (MUN). It is imperative that delegates learn everything there is to know about the issues at hand and the position of the nation that they are representing. Become familiar with the procedures and take an active part in committee deliberations by negotiating and giving well-prepared statements. Forging alliances and engaging with other delegates, networking and diplomatic abilities are crucial. In addition, concentrate on drafting resolutions that address the agenda issues and collaborating effectively. Accept the learning process, improve your public speaking abilities, and obtain understanding of the complexities of global diplomacy.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the research report, or in fact any topic in general. you can reach me at [zjustus@ishamburg.org](mailto:zjustus@ishamburg.org).

I'm excited to meet each and every one of you. See you soon!



# Introduction

After years of vicious conflict, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has had severe difficulties reintegrating former child soldiers into society. Encouraging these individuals to engage in social reintegration and sustainable economic recovery is essential to their smooth transition from military to civilian life. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a number of organizations, notably the International Labour Organization (ILO), have been assisting with the social and economic reintegration of former soldiers, including children.<sup>1</sup>

One of the most important aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is fostering sustainable economic recovery and social reintegration for former child soldiers. Over the past 15 years, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has actively supported the demobilization and reintegration of former fighters. The ILO's strategy is centered on helping former fighters and host communities rebuild their communities and find new sources of income. In order to support sustained reintegration and peacebuilding, this involves fostering the growth of cooperatives, micro and small businesses, and employability and vocational training<sup>1</sup>.

Government troops and armed groups have used minors extensively and systematically as combatants, porters, domestic helpers, and sexual property during the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. After doing research, Amnesty International discovered that in the conflict-ridden areas of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, at least 30,000 children were connected to armed forces and organizations, with up to 40% of these youngsters being females. A nationwide initiative for the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of former fighters—roughly 30,000 children—was started by the DRC government. The DDR program hasn't been without problems, either, and a lot of kids—especially girls—have been left behind or mistakenly assumed to be the dependents of adult combatants. The government has not put enough effort or money into helping released children reintegrate into their country<sup>2</sup>.

It is critical to attend to the requirements of released children and offer them sufficient assistance in order to guarantee their smooth reintegration. This includes educational options, vocational training, and community-based economic reintegration initiatives. Though their funding is limited, national and international child protection NGOs are now offering some assistance. The government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo must carry out its duties and responsibilities by offering complete assistance for the reintegration of former child soldiers. These kids might end up being re-recruited or living in poverty if they don't receive the right assistance<sup>2</sup>.

Model United Nations (MUN) is an educational simulation that allows students to engage in diplomatic discussions and negotiations, mirroring the functioning of the United Nations. In MUN, participants take on the roles of delegates representing different countries and work together to address global issues<sup>3</sup>.

The GA4 focuses on issues related to decolonization, peacekeeping, and political affairs. Delegates in GA4 engage in discussions and negotiations to draft resolutions that address these topics. They research their assigned country's position, present speeches, and participate in moderated and unmoderated caucuses to collaborate with other delegates and build consensus<sup>4</sup>.

# Glossary

**ILO:** International Labour Organization

**DRC:** Democratic Republic of the Congo

## Issue Explanation

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the current state of affairs and the issues surrounding the promotion of long-term economic recovery and social reintegration for former child soldiers are complicated and difficult. The DRC's ex-combatants, including children, are undergoing socioeconomic reintegration and post-conflict recovery thanks to the significant part to the active support of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

The sudden loss of money and social standing that dismissed ex-combatants—including former child soldiers—often experience is one of the major obstacles in the reintegration process. In order to tackle this issue, the ILO concentrates on offering aid to facilitate the shift from military to civilian life, which is essential for the effective reintegration and reconstruction of communities impacted by armed conflicts.

These are some of the main points made and methods used by the ILO to encourage long-term economic growth and the social reintegration of former child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

- Providing conflict-affected children with employment opportunities is crucial to prevent their recruitment and use in armed conflict.
- Work plays a vital role in ensuring the sustainable reintegration of former child soldiers.
- Work is an essential element of peacebuilding and development.

The ILO supports a number of efforts to accomplish these aims, such as the growth of cooperatives, employability and job training, and micro and small firm development. These programs enhance communal cooperation and unity among people in addition to offering financial possibilities.

The ILO has made great progress in the economic reintegration of former combatants in the Democratic Republic of the Congo through these activities. Through individual or group microenterprises, around 15,000 ex-combatants—adults as well as young men and women—have been successfully reintegrated into their host communities. In addition, 237 cooperatives have been established, and 3,150 former fighters and members of their host communities have formed production associations<sup>5</sup>.

### **Impact on Humanity:**

- Psychosocial Well-Being: Due to their engagement in armed warfare, former child soldiers frequently suffer from acute trauma and mental distress<sup>6</sup>. Their capacity to rehabilitate and reintegrate into society may be hampered by inadequate reintegration help.
- Education and Skills: During their time serving in armed organizations, many child soldiers do not receive an education. They could find it difficult to make up for lost time in school and develop the skills needed for a future job without the right assistance<sup>6</sup>.
- Community Acceptance: Because of the shame and terror, it can be difficult to reintegrate child soldiers into their communities. Acceptance from the community is essential to their effective reintegration and to stop them from becoming more marginalized<sup>5</sup>.

### **Impact on the Economy:**

- Reduced Productivity: Unresolved reintegration of former child soldiers may cause these people to struggle to obtain jobs or make a positive contribution to society<sup>5</sup>.
- Alternative Livelihoods: Offering job opportunities and skill development to former child soldiers is a crucial part of fostering a sustainable economic recovery<sup>1</sup>. Giving them employable skills will enable them to find other sources of income and boost the local economy as a whole.
- Micro and Small Businesses: The International Labour Organization (ILO) encourages the creation of micro and small businesses, which not only help local economies grow but also give former child soldiers a source of income<sup>1</sup>. Other members of the community may also be able to find work through these businesses.

There might be serious repercussions for the rest of the world if the DRC's does not attempt to support former child soldiers' with the social reintegration. Continued instability in the area might result in continuing conflicts and possible spillover effects as a consequence. Humanitarian issues might arise from population relocation and the ensuing refugee crisis, placing pressure on the nations nearby. Furthermore, international crime and terrorism may be assisted by the vulnerability of former child soldiers to be recruited by criminal networks or extremist groups. In addition, the absence of successful reintegration programs compromises international efforts to defend children's rights and raises questions about human rights. For the sake of human rights, international security, and regional stability, this matter must be resolved.

# History of the Topic

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has long struggled with the issue of child soldiers, which has had a major effect on the nation. Several armed forces, including conventional militaries and paramilitary and rebel groups, have been active in the conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These violent organizations have enlisted young people and exploited them as soldiers, subjecting them to abuse and robbing them of their youth.

Problem Emergence: The years of violence and instability in the DRC are to blame for the problem of child soldiers. There have been several military battles in the DRC as different factions have competed for control of resources and power. Complicating matters further is the presence of neighboring nations like Rwanda and Uganda <sup>2</sup>.

Countries Involved: A number of nations have expressed interest in becoming involved in the DRC war. Child soldiers were recruited as a result of Rwanda's and Uganda's invasion of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the late 1990s and early 2000s, which intensified the conflict. Efforts to remedy the conflict and its effects have also engaged other nations, including the United States and the United Kingdom <sup>2</sup>.

Timeline: For several decades, the DRC has struggled with the issue of child soldiers. The recruitment and deployment of child soldiers increased during the 1990s as the violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo grew more intense. Since then, initiatives to address the problem and encourage the reintegration of former child soldiers into society have been undertaken <sup>2</sup>.

Growth or Eradication of the Problem: Although efforts to address the issue of child soldiers in the DRC have shown some success, the problem remains. There are still difficulties in demobilizing and reintegrating former child soldiers despite efforts. Children are still at danger due to ongoing wars and instability in some areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the possibility of child soldiers being recruited and used <sup>2</sup>.

**China:** The remarks delivered by Ambassador Zhang Jun at the High-level Briefing of the Security Council on Children and Armed Conflict <sup>8</sup> demonstrate China's position on supporting long-term economic recovery and social reintegration for former child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). China urges for communication and negotiation as a means of resolving disputes and highlights the need of safeguarding children in armed conflict in the statement. China advocates for close communication and coordination with the UN and international community to address practical difficulties faced by communities affected by conflict, such as funding and technology gaps, and supports the primary responsibility of conflict-affected countries to protect children. China also asks for comprehensive policies to promote the reintegration of former child soldiers into society and highlights its efforts to safeguard children in nations including South Sudan, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo <sup>8</sup>.

**France:** France acknowledges the significance of advancing social reintegration and sustained economic recovery for former child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). France, a nation dedicated to upholding human rights and promoting peace, backs initiatives aimed at resolving these kids' problems and facilitating their smooth transition back into society. In addition to offering assistance for identity adoption, family and community acceptance, and equitable chances for schooling and development, France is an advocate for comprehensive



programs that give priority to the needs and capacities of the affected children and their communities <sup>9</sup>.

**Russian federation:** There is no official statement from the Russian federation, which means that one does not know the official opinion or stance of the Russian federation on this topic.

**United Kingdom:** The need of supporting long-term economic recovery and social reintegration for former child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is acknowledged by the United Kingdom. Delivering honest, dependable investment, empowering women and girls, ramping up humanitarian assistance, combating climate change and global health are the main objectives of the UK's development partnership with the DRC <sup>10</sup>. By fostering long-term stability, implementing humanitarian programs, bolstering accountability and governance, empowering women and girls, protecting the DRC's forests and biodiversity while advancing sustainable economic development, the UK hopes to support a more resilient, democratic, and stable DRC <sup>10</sup>. The DRC government has benefited greatly from the backing of the UK as a development partner, with the UK offering humanitarian aid and funding programs related to water access, education, health, and climate change <sup>10</sup>.

**United States of America:** The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) child soldiers need social reintegration and lasting economic recovery, and the US acknowledges this need. The U.S. is dedicated to promoting democracy, human rights, and resolving humanitarian problems in the DRC as the country's largest bilateral contributor <sup>11</sup>. The United States offers the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) substantial help in the areas of economic possibilities, capacity building, and resolving the underlying causes of violence <sup>11</sup>. Although official U.S. policy on this matter is unknown, it can be assumed that the country supports programs designed to help ex-child soldiers reintegrate into society and give them opportunities for sustainable employment in order to facilitate their successful reintegration <sup>12</sup>.

## Any Previous Attempts

The United Nations, individual nations, and non-governmental organizations have all been involved in efforts to find a solution to the problem of supporting long-term economic recovery and social reintegration for former child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These entities have done the following, to name a few:

### United Nations:

- The Integrated DDR Standards were created by the UN with an emphasis on the DDR (disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration) of former combatants, including child soldiers <sup>7</sup>.
- Programs to rehabilitate and reintegrate child soldiers have been supported by UNICEF, with a focus on family reunion, psychological assistance, and education/economic opportunities <sup>7</sup>.
- Resolution 2427 (2018) is one of the resolutions that the UN Security Council has enacted, and it pledges to take proactive measures to safeguard children in armed situations, including preventing the recruitment of minors by non-State armed organizations <sup>4</sup>.

### **Individual Nations:**

- National initiatives to address the issue of child soldiers have been put in place in nations like the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Family reunion, community support, psychological help, and educational and economic prospects are frequently included in these programs <sup>7</sup>.
- In order to help the DRC and other impacted nations become more capable of addressing the problem of child soldiers and fostering long-term healing, certain nations have given them financial and technical support <sup>7</sup>.

### **NGOs, or non-governmental organizations:**

- Organizations like Young Soldiers International have been actively involved in supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of young soldiers as well as fighting for their rights.  
They provide emotional support, education, and vocational training in addition to other forms of help on the ground <sup>7</sup>.
- Programs for the reintegration of child soldiers have been put in place by other NGOs, such as War Child, who offer children psychosocial assistance, education, and vocational training <sup>7</sup>.

Resolving the matter and putting a stop to the DRC's recruitment and employment of child soldiers would have far-reaching effects. By enabling former child soldiers to reintegrate into society, get access to school and vocational training, and participate in the economy, it would support the nation's sustained economic recovery. Socially, it would lessen prejudice and bias against former child soldiers, encourage community healing and reconciliation, and make kids' surroundings safer.

# Media Contribution

Since it's a complicated and multidimensional subject, opinions on supporting long-term economic recovery and social reintegration for former child soldiers in the DRC might differ. Even if it is difficult to give a thorough summary of popular opinion, we may highlight certain prevalent viewpoints and beliefs.

Support for Rehabilitation and Reintegration: A lot of individuals understand how critical it is to foster long-term economic growth as well as the social reintegration of former child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They feel that these people need to have an opportunity to start again, obtain an education, and develop the skills necessary for work. Most people agree that offering chances for recovery and reintegration can improve the impacted communities' general stability and well-being <sup>1</sup>.

Concern for the Welfare of Child Soldiers: The necessity to defend the rights of child soldiers and their welfare are frequently expressed concerns in the public sphere. The idea that child soldiers are victims of abuse and exploitation is becoming more widely accepted, and measures to support their physical and mental rehabilitation ought to be taken. Many individuals think that social reintegration and lasting economic recovery are essential to ending the cycle of violence and avoiding the re-enlistment of child soldiers <sup>1</sup>.

Emphasis on Education and Skill Development: It's widely accepted that these two areas are essential to the reintegration process. Initiatives that give former child soldiers access to high-quality education and career training are frequently supported by the public. This is seen to be a way to empower them, improve their employability, and allow them to make meaningful contributions to society <sup>1</sup>.

Need for Comprehensive Support: The general public acknowledges the need for a comprehensive strategy to support former child soldiers' social reintegration and sustainable economic recovery. This entails resolving the root causes of conflict, offering psychological assistance, guaranteeing healthcare access, and generating employment prospects. It is thought that in order to effectively address the multifaceted issues that former child soldiers and their communities experience, a comprehensive strategy is required <sup>1</sup>.

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- <sup>2</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/drc-children-war-creating-hope-future>
- <sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbs.de/en/campus-life-students-life/student-initiatives/cbs-model-united-nations/>
- <sup>4</sup> <https://press.un.org/en/2023/gaspd794.doc.htm>
- <sup>5</sup> <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/global-coalition-for-reintegration-of-child-soldiers/>
- <sup>6</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-republic-congo/analysis-targeted-assistance-needed-drc-s-former-child-soldiers>
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