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14th Session

Agenda Item: A

**Realizing the Rights of all Children and Adolescents
Improving the Quality of Education for all Children and Adolescents
Improving Gender Parity in Educational Settings**

The United Nations Children's Fund Executive Board,

Profoundly concerned about infeasible mechanisms to address the issue of gender inequality in educational settings,

Calling to attention the lack of data-collecting methods regarding gender inequality in terms of records on literacy rates,

Fully alarmed about existing discriminatory prejudices including culturally assigned gender roles and social pressures which are propagated by a lack of awareness as well as religious, cultural, and traditional beliefs that lead to discrimination against women and girls in certain Member States,

Having concerns about girls' early educational attrition is affected by the fact that annually more than 12 million girls worldwide are married before they reach the age of 18,

Approving the Spotlight Initiative which is a United Nations (UN) initiative in partnership with the European Union (EU) and other partners which has signed or strengthened 198 laws and policies which include reforming legislation to raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 in UN Member States as well as eliminating violence against women and girls in 41 Member States in 2021,

Expresseing approval about the creation of a feasible framework that will include measures to eliminate child marriage which is a crucial problem in need of financial support in developing Member States,

Recognizing 129 million girls are out-of-school in 2022 according to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization who are deprived of education due to child marriage and early pregnancy,

Noting with regret that of 18.5 million out-of-school children, more than 60% of are girl as reported by UNICEF in 2022,

Emphasizing the importance of security in and around schools,

Noting with regret that two million children are robbed of education in Africa according to UNICEF estimates, because of a lack of adequate infrastructure,

1. *Recommends* all willing and able Member States to use the following mechanisms in order to incentivise education for girls by:
 - a. Providing meals through collaboration with the United Nations Food Program (UNFP) to encourage daily and timely attendance and admittance to school;
 - b. Implementing in less developing countries a cash transfer to girls' families upon the condition of their attendance in school, also known as conditional cash transfers, which will be provided and monitored by Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who will ensure that the money is used for the education and sustenance of girls;
 - c. Urging the provision of state sponsored scholarships and grants in developing Member States with the collaboration of independent donors and NGOs such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for girls, minorities, and marginalized communities;
 - d. Ensuring free access to school education and school facilities by having state sponsored schools where all school fees are provided;
2. *Calls upon* Member States to collaborate with UN Women in order to select role models, idols and religious leaders to spread awareness on the importance of education with emphasis placed upon combatting pre-existing prejudices and stereotypes against women and girls;
3. *Emphasizes* the need for all Member States to adopt comprehensive legislation that criminalizes gender-based violence (GBV), sexual harassment, and other forms of violence targeted at women and girls, males and boys including practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and educates the public on harsh penalties following violations;
4. *Calls upon* all willing and able Member States to implement the following systems to ensure that women and girls have the ability to gain access to education easily regardless of economical and geographical hindrances by establishing:
 - a. E-Learning which provides internet access to girls in rural areas to ensure education through online platforms;
 - b. Mobile learning vehicles which will be a transportable classroom that is able to reach rural areas where building infrastructure is infeasible due to a lack of finances or geographical difficulties;
 - c. Information campaigns against harmful stereotypes such as toxic masculinity;

5. *Invites* all willing and able NGOs such as Human Rights Watch, and international organizations such as UNICEF and United Nation Girls' Education Initiatives (UNGEI) to:
 - a. Report harassment and abusive practices towards females;
 - b. Work together with national media, such as state television channels, in order to promote positive gender roles and the importance of girls' education in the form of awareness campaigns;
 - c. Encourage governments who maintain discriminatory or insufficient legislation which contributes to the abuse and lack of education of women and girls;
6. *Recommends* developed Member States to collaborate with international organizations such as IMF to provide financial support for creating roadmaps or initiatives of each developing Member State about improving gender parity in educational institutions by:
 - a. Supporting each household income to promote more girls attending school instead of forcing them to marry;
 - b. Protecting girls from dropping out of school due to pregnancy;
 - c. Ensuring all children can have access to adequate education;
7. *Recommends* Member States, with regards to their level of development, to promote the importance of improving security in and around schools, so that all girls can receive adequate education without concern about their safety and can focus on their studies;
8. *Recommends* international organizations to collaborate with initiatives between UNICEF and the World Bank in order to enhance programmes which will focus on school security and safety by:
 - a. Rehabilitating victims of human traffickings with the support of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC);
 - b. Reconstructing schools which were damaged by violent attacks;
9. *Recommends* all Member States to reform or establish legislation to educate about under age marriage raise the age of marriage 18 through UNICEF and Girl Not Brides' support by:
 - a. Strengthening the monitoring system of data on the number of child marriages in each Member State;
 - b. Creating safe places in order to support children to speak up against harmful practices;

- c. Educating society, parents, and guardians about the negative outcomes of children who are married below the age of 18;
- 10. *Encourages* all Member States to provide mental health facilities to support both women and men who were sexually assaulted by working with UNICEF and local communities, including support from developed Member States to provide monetary or manpower assistance to developing Member States to address the main root causes of recurring sexual abuse and solutions for rehabilitating victims;
- 11. *Recommends* all Member States to implement the following subjects into school curriculums with emphasis placed upon girls by adding more practical subjects to school curriculums, such as life-skills learning, science, technology, mathematics, and engineering (STEM) fields;
- 12. *Requests* all Member States to collaborate and create specific databases about the number of girls that are unable to attend school by:
 - a. Collecting data through conducting surveys and comparing the number of girls of school age with the number of girls actually attending school;
 - b. Providing transparent information sharing to support the database of United Nations Data;
- 13. *Recommends* UNICEF in cooperation with UNGEI to develop training programs in the form of annual workshops for teachers in schools by sending specialists in the field of gender equality to schools to strengthen their skills and knowledge on topics of gender inequality;
- 14. *Calls upon* educating teachers, parents and guardians regarding gender equality in society by pushing forth the understanding that women can also achieve significant roles in the workforce and therefore emphasizing the importance of educating their daughters, with cooperation between educational institutions, civil society, local governments, private businesses, NGOs, and international organizations, such as UN Women;
- 15. *Requests* UNICEF, with the collaboration of UN Women, to hold both in-person and online workshops at the regional level, to remove social bias toward women in workplaces including STEM fields, and invites girls and boys as well as their parents as a participants by:
 - a. Welcoming women role models who have worked in STEM areas to the workshops;
 - b. Providing girls and boys with speeches and education delivered by role models at workshops;
 - c. Launching online websites and new platforms for sharing information for young girls, which are organized and created by women role models;

- d. Educating young men and women the importance of having consent and promoting safe and healthy sexual practices in order to prevent early pregnancy which is a prominent cause of high drop out rates for girls causing gender disparities in educational settings;
16. *Urges* all willing and able Member States to establish free public girls-only education centers in alignment with organizations such as UNICEF and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the objective of preventing harassment within schools and ensuring separate sanitation facilities in schools in order to encourage families to send their daughters to school;
17. *Recommends* the creation of a program in developing Member States with the support of NGOs, such as IMF, which will fund scholarships for women and allow women's entry into university education which will give them the opportunity to attend university and become independent in the future;
18. *Recommends* developed Member States and NGOs to improve education facilities in developing Member States by donating and distributing second-hand equipment to schools such as classroom equipment, lab equipment, and gym equipment to help developing Member States preserve their limited financial resources.