

Agenda Item: Addressing the Causes and Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency

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1. Letter from the Under Secretary General of UNODC

Esteemed Delegates,

As the Under Secretary General of UNODC, I signify that it is a great pleasure and honor to warmly welcome you all to TFLMUN'25 and UNODC, one of the most excessive committees of the United Nations. Within this committee, we will have important debates and valid solutions for the prevention of juvenile delinquency. The agenda of the committee is a special and important one, since we are familiar with it by the age gap it includes. We expect you to work together to find specific solutions that boost youth morale, prevent juveniles from crime and help underage population to keep them safe from certain factors.

I would like to specify that this is a major issue for every nation, and it involves the globe directly with all its people. As delegates; we encourage you to advocate in behalf of youth, debate important topics excessively and hope that each of our delegates will give out their best effort in addressing main reasons of this critical issue; also design admirable solutions in behalf of preventing it. I expect all of you to represent your country with determination and honor.

I believe that this guide will be a valuable resource for you to understand the agenda, and help you ascertain main principals that lends a hand for your preparations for this committee. I am more than excited to meet all of the delegates and observe your contributions to this substantial issue.

Best regards,

Adal ÇAVUŞLU

Under Secretary General

cavusluadal@gmail.com

2. Introduction to the Committee

a. What is UNODC?

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is a global leader in the fight against illicit drugs and international crime, in addition to being responsible for implementing the United Nations lead program on terrorism. Established in 1997, UNODC has approximately 500 staff members worldwide. Its headquarters are in Vienna and it operates 20 field offices, as well as liaison offices in New York and Brussels.

UNODC works to educate people throughout the world about the dangers of drug abuse and to strengthen international action against illicit drug production and trafficking and drug-related crime. To achieve those aims, UNODC has launched a range of initiatives, including alternatives in the area of illicit drug crop cultivation, monitoring of illicit crops and the implementation of projects against money laundering.

UNODC also works to improve crime prevention and assist with criminal justice reform in order to strengthen the rule of law, promote stable and viable criminal justice systems and combat the growing threats of transnational organized crime and corruption. In 2002, the General Assembly approved an expanded program of activities for the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC. The activities focus on providing assistance to States, on request, in ratifying and implementing the eighteen universal legal instruments against terrorism.

3. Introduction to the Agenda Item

a. The definition of juvenile delinquency

Juvenile delinquency can be defined as *participation in illegal activities by underage individuals*. It is a significant global issue that keeps growing under the influence of environmental derangements, familial instabilities and economic hardship that drags youth to crime. It hinders to the growth of social stability, economic development, well-being of youth and educated society. Governments, NGO's and the United Nations have long searched for effective ways to prevent juvenile delinquency and ensure the reintegration of young offenders to society. In the USA, young people have the largest risk of entering prison in the world, and the largest proportion (20%) of the crime committed by them is simple assault (including unlawful intentional infliction) (Maryville University. 2020, October 14). Since 2018, it has been noted a modest increase in juvenile offenders among China's top prosecutors. In 2019, 61,295 teenagers were reviewed for prosecution in China (Tone, S., 2020).

i. UNODC's role in addressing juvenile delinquency

UNODC works closely with governments, NGO's and other UN agencies to provide assistance in various fields, including youth delinquency. The agency promotes various international legal frameworks to emphasize alternative measures in order to support youth reintegration to society.

The UNODC/IPJJ Criteria for the Design and Evaluation of Juvenile Justice Reform Programmes provide guidance on how to design and evaluate successful juvenile justice reform programmes.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) work to assist Member States in their struggle to fight illicit drugs, crime and terrorism and to pursue peace, development and social stability. In addition, the United Nations Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ), works to facilitate and enhance the coordination of technical assistance in juvenile justice reform.

UNODC has provided policy advice and technical assistance on various juvenile justice issues to a number of countries, including Afghanistan, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Cambodia, Ecuador, Egypt, Georgia, Haiti, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Peru, and South Sudan. The projects currently being implemented by UNODC focus on a variety of objectives which include: i) youth crime prevention; ii) to divert children away from the juvenile justice system; iii) to ensure that children's rights are protected throughout the criminal justice process; iv) to ensure that deprivation of liberty is a measure of last resort and for the shortest period of time; v) to improve conditions of detention; and vi) to improve the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law.

ii. The global relevance of juvenile delinquency

The juvenile delinquency rates raising in certain regions has raised the concerns about current effectiveness of existing legal and social structures. In some areas, children and teenagers are exposed to criminal activities due to poverty, lack of education, domestic violence and gang violence. Additionally, exposure to violence through digital platforms has also contributed to new challenges in order to fight juvenile delinquency.

Treatment of juvenile offenders varies with different governments, from punitive to reintegration and rehabilitation. International practice in recent years has also highlighted the utility of intervention programs and family support services in attempting to prevent youth crime. The effectiveness of these measures, however, is dependent on many factors; such as government commitment, social awareness, and financial support.

This study guide will analyze why juvenile delinquency exists, the different prevention measures used globally, and what obstacles lie in the way of finding solutions to it. It will also look at how international mechanisms and organizations, such as the UNODC, influence policy that keeps young people from getting caught up in crime. By deepening the knowledge of this issue, delegates will be able to design more effective solutions that prioritize the well-being of youth while fostering public safety.

4. The Terms and Key Concepts

- *Differences between Juvenile Delinquency and Juvenile Crime:* Juvenile crime means criminal offense done by children. Juvenile delinquency may include status offense.
- *Status Offense:* Status offense is referred as small offenses made by teenagers that are not considered crimes when done by adults, like skipping school, running from home and underage drinking.
- *Recidivism:* The likelihood of a juvenile committing crimes after reintegrating to society.

- *Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR)*: The age limit to hold a juvenile responsible for their actions. It may vary from 7 to 14 or higher, being different in every country.
- *Children In Conflict with The Law (CICL)*: Term that international organizations apply to minors accused or convicted of criminal offenses.

5. Causes of Juvenile Delinquency

a. Socioeconomic Factors

Poverty and financial hardship often cause juvenile delinquency since teenagers could be in need of supporting themselves and their families. The crimes could vary as gang involvement, drug trade and theft. Lack of education, like school dropouts and low academic performance also contribute to delinquent behavior. Poverty and juvenile delinquency, an entangled association all over the world as a crucial issue that requires extensive research to identify its mechanisms underlying poverty and result in other violent behaviors with effective interventions

i. Examples of Socioeconomic Contributes to Juvenile Delinquency

Bangladesh has achieved remarkable economic and social progress over the past decade, with GDP growth averaging over 6% and poverty rates declining by nearly one-third (World Bank, 2020). However, poverty remains entrenched, with 20% still living below the national poverty line. This disproportionately impacts the country's large youth population of over 34 million adolescents and youth aged 10-24 years, comprising one-third of the total population

(UNICEF, 2019). Police records over the past decade show rising arrests and detention of minors, especially from urban slums, for offenses like drug peddling, theft, violence against women, and gang activities (Saber, 2021). The number of juveniles detained in correction centers increased by over 15% between 2015 and 2020.

According to the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, poor and arid districts in Kenya have less access to education at all levels as compared to wealthier and more urbanized districts yet these are the very areas characterized by statistics as having the highest levels of poverty in the country (Rekker et al., 2015). High enrollment rates with less progression to higher classes is also much higher in these standard eight to form one transition classes. This according to the bureau, is evidence that students drop out at the end of upper primary education with the major policy guidelines being to improve transition rates and increase retention in secondary schools. Dropout rates among children from poor families are higher as compared to those of the well-to-do families.

b. Family-related Factors

Consistent patterns of familial risk factors are linked to the emergence of criminal behavior in children and adolescents. Parental neglect and abuse are among the many family risk factors that need to be addressed (emotional, psychological or physical). The offspring of parents who do not respect the law and social standards are more likely to think like their parents. When it comes to delinquent behavior, children who have a poor connection to their family are more likely to participate in risky behaviors such as drugs and alcohol use. The experts contended that socioeconomic status was a substantial explanatory factor for tendencies towards delinquency.

Nevertheless, certain resources indicate that delinquency is also prevalent among middle class youth (Rekker et al., 2015). The primary factors contributing to juvenile horrific crime are land disputes, honor killings, inferiority mentality, huge family size, wealth difference, and the motivation of parents.

c. Community Disorganization

Poverty-stricken neighborhoods often experience higher levels of social disorganization, characterized by factors such as high crime rates, inadequate social services, and limited access to positive role models and recreational activities. Juvenile delinquency then becomes a common characteristic in society (Wickrama et al., 2010). Bond (2015) states that areas with high levels of crime and adolescent delinquency are characterized by physical disorder, poverty, and a wide range of cultural variety. Another tenet of the social disorganization hypothesis posits that involvement in illicit activities does not originate at the individual level (Rekker et al., 2015). Upon careful scrutiny of these underprivileged areas, it becomes evident that the poverty factor mentioned in the theory of social disorganization does indeed impact the choices made by young individuals to engage in criminal activities as a means to acquire material possessions or money in order to meet their basic needs, such as housing, nourishment, and clothing (Kennedy et al., 2020).

d. Peer Influence

Peer influence plays a significant role in shaping behavior during adolescence, and exposure to deviant peers can increase the likelihood of engaging in delinquent behavior (Kennedy et al., 2020). When youngsters are unable to be accepted by their peers, they frequently encounter a persistent cycle of social exclusion and lack of success

throughout their lives. Furthermore, it is evident that during their middle teenage years, the peer group exerts a significant and potentially the most influential impact on attitudes, objectives, and behavioral standards (Youniss, 1980). Put simply, through peer judgments, an individual's self-perception is constantly shaped and reshaped. Peer groups possess such significant influence that individuals are willing to deviate from societal norms in order to safeguard the interests, values, norms, and expectations of their group (Jarjoura et al., 2002). Le Blanc (2003) suggests that the relationship with deviant peers can occur in two ways: firstly, by having friends who engage in criminal activities, and secondly, by joining a somewhat organized group of delinquents, commonly known as a gang (Kennedy et al., 2020). Teenagers who identify as gang members likely to have a higher level of engagement in criminal activities, especially in terms of the severity and range of offenses committed (Thornberry et al., 2003).

e. Psychological and Behavioral Factors

Many times, juvenile delinquency is dismissed as just troubled teen behavior until it increases to more serious crimes. For most of these juveniles, however, there are many factors that lead to delinquent or criminal behavior. In fact, almost 70% of juveniles that commit criminal behavior have at least one diagnosable mental illness (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2017). Many of these disorders include anxiety or depressive disorders, obsessive-compulsive disorder, bipolar disorder, conduct disorders, or attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder. Within the population of juveniles that have one of these or other diagnosable mental health disorders, more than 60% have been shown to also have substance use disorders at their young age (Rousseau, 2023).

f. Digital and Social Media Influence

It is possible that social media may precipitate juvenile delinquency, whilst simultaneously offering a forum for the exchange of information, emotional support and social interaction. The dissemination of misinformation, the occurrence of cyberbullying, and the prevalence of privacy breaches on social media may have a deleterious effect on juveniles, thereby increasing their susceptibility to engage in delinquent activities.

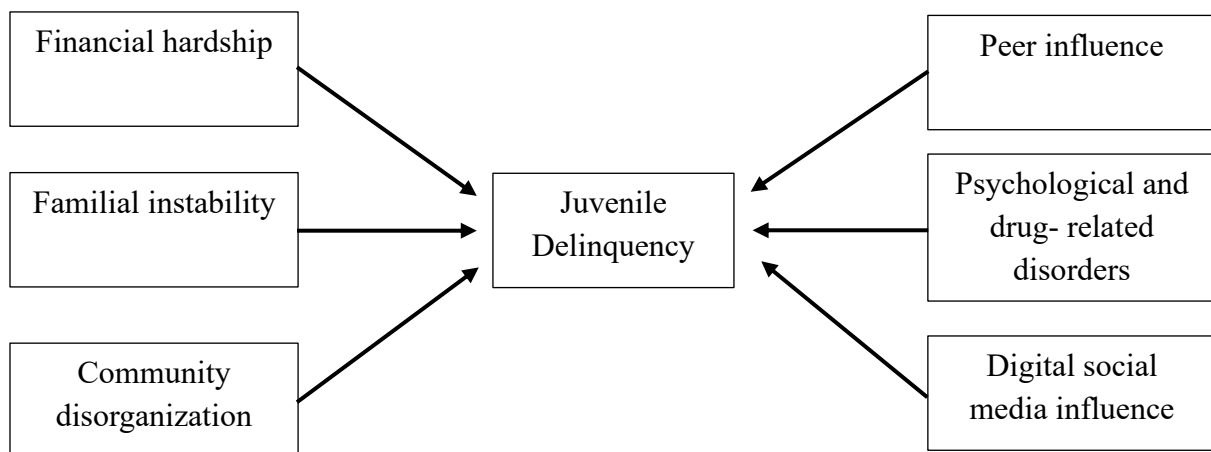
i. The Dissemination of Criminal Practices in Social Media

In the hidden realm of social media, the dissemination of criminal techniques is occurring with minimal attention and has become a novel phenomenon in juvenile delinquency that should not be underestimated. A review of the literature on adolescent online behavior reveals that a significant proportion of adolescents surveyed (more than one-third) have encountered discussions or instructional videos about criminal techniques on social media. Such activities encompass not only conventional methods of theft and fraud but also more sophisticated and challenging-to-detect cybercrimes, including hacking and identity theft. (Zhang, W. L., 2020)

ii. Infiltration of Extreme Ideas and Values in Social Media

As young people's need for a sense of security and their psychological emptiness intensify, their reliance on organizations' increases, leading to an acceptance of extremist terrorist ideologies. Moreover, social media platforms are employed by terrorist organizations for the dissemination of information, including audio and video content pertaining to terrorist activities. Furthermore, terrorist organizations employ

cookies to identify potential recruits and utilize various forms of indoctrination to compel individuals to adhere to their ideology. For example, Ali Shukairi Amin, a 17-year-old male from Virginia in the United States, disseminated over 7,000 messages in support of the Islamic State on his Twitter account. These messages provided instructions to Islamic State supporters on the utilization of cybercurrency for the purpose of concealing their support for the Islamic State. Moreover, he assisted members of the terrorist organization in encrypting their online communications. Furthermore, he provided guidance to Reza Riknejad, aged 18, who aspired to travel to Syria to join ISIS. The process of joining ISIS was conducted exclusively via social media, particularly Facebook, with the assistance of other members of the terrorist organization and through the viewing of video content (United States OPA, 2015)



6. Challenges in Addressing Juvenile Delinquency

The efforts of preventing juvenile delinquency have such enormous hindrances facing the juvenile justice system. Systemic barriers, resource limitations, cultural perceptions and the overall

ignorance of preventing juvenile crime in such areas cause problem to the agenda's basis.

a. The ineffectiveness of juvenile custodial and correctional institutions

- *The dearth of juvenile courts* and often poor legal representation of the young offenders during prosecution has resulted in many children been kept in custody with adult criminals. There are very limited correctional centers in various areas like most of Africa, South America and the Middle East; hence several juvenile offenders are confined in the approved institutions or prisons. Also, at the state level, some of the residential youth correctional institutions serve as a punitive labor camp where children become hardened criminals when they come out. This promotes juvenile recidivism.
- *Lack of Alternative Sentencing:* Under the juvenile justice system, all cases are supposed not to lead to sentencing of the young offenders, rather there should be alternative to sentencing which may include: community services, life skill programmes, victim offender mediation and family, development of group conferences, appropriate alternatives for girls, and so on. This has not been in place in such areas and it leads to congestion and over-crowding of the juvenile correctional centers, and difficulty in rehabilitating the delinquents and promoting juvenile recidivism.
- *Horrible Condition of the Juvenile Correctional Centers:* The life of juveniles in the correctional centers is over regimented to the extent that there is strict control in virtually all activities of

the juveniles. This often leaves the juveniles in a mentally brutalized manner. For example, in this regard; it is apparent that the juvenile correctional centers in Nigeria are faced with the problem of destroying the juveniles which negates the essence of rehabilitation. Adetula and Fatusin (2010), studies have shown that contact with the correctional institutions in Nigeria by the juveniles makes the less hardened juveniles to be more hardened in delinquent activities upon release with more tendencies that generate high frequency of juvenile recidivism. According to Mohammad (2017), The horrible conditions of the Nigeria juvenile correctional centers do not permit their rehabilitation.

- *Non-separation and Classification of Delinquents:* In such remand homes, the juvenile offenders and adult offenders are joint together in the same cell without following the Standard Minimum Rules (SMR) for juvenile imprisonment, which prescribes that juvenile offenders and repeated offenders should be locked up separately according to their various categories of offences (Amnesty International, 2008). Adult criminals might influence them with some kind of criminal activities. In the remand home, juvenile offenders should be classified based on sex, age, physical and mental health status, length of staying period, frequency of delinquency, delinquents' needs, possibility of social adjustment, gravity of the offence committed and so on. Non-separation and inadequate classification of the delinquents in the correctional homes make rehabilitation difficult and it promotes juveniles' recidivism.
- *Poor Infrastructure and Housing Facility:* In such remand homes, rooms and cells are not good for human habitation, while the beddings are in most cases absent as many juveniles sleep on

bare floor. Sometimes juvenile offenders are being sent to prison instead of remand homes which at the end they will be mixed up with the adult offenders which will have negative implications on them. There is shortage of bed spaces and only few of the delinquents sleep on the available bed-space. Disease is widespread; sanitary conditions are non-existent. Such facilities would have completely negative impact on juvenile offenders, instead of rehabilitation.

- *Over-crowding and congestion:* In such areas, most of the remand homes are overcrowded beyond the designed population which in turn over-stretches the available infrastructure beyond their limits of function due to human pressure. The facilities therein are over-used and weak. This affects the role of the remand home and it has resulted in much health-related problems of unsanitary environment, poor feeding, poor clothing, over-stretched facilities, insufficiency or even non-existence of welfare rehabilitation facilities. It also poses management problems as it can be seen in the inability to separate hardened criminals from minor offenders (Odekunle, 1978).
- *Poor Health and Medical Services:* In various remand homes, the health condition is deplorable which has led to infectious diseases, such as skin scabies and bilharzias. To worsen the situation, there are no standard hospitals, drugs and qualified medical personnel to take care of the sick delinquents. Even when there is a need to take the sick inmates out of the remand home for treatment to a hospital, there are no motor vehicles to convey them. To give an instance; Omu (2008) argues that, in the Nigerian juvenile remand homes' health sector the problem

is the unavailability of drugs and other medical and laboratory equipment for effective health delivery.

- *Personnel Problem*: Juveniles who commits delinquent act who are being sent to the juvenile homes are not properly reformed because the personnel who are been charged with the responsibility of controlling juvenile are not well educated. They lack the needed training and materials, under-staffing, and so on. These have impeded the enforcement and the respect of the rights of juveniles. The institutions fail to meet its objectives fully because of inadequate funding of the personnel. The personnel are not well trained in handling children's cases. The mechanism for reformation is not obtainable even among staffers who are supposed to be the reformers. This is because personnel in remand home are not properly and efficiently trained and retrained. Personnel members are not in tune with the current realities of global practices of juvenile rehabilitation (Ugwuoke and Otodo, 2015).

b. Weak strategies in preventing juvenile delinquency

Various researches accumulate that some prevention and intervention strategies and programs simply don't work in addressing and preventing juvenile delinquency.

- *Zero-Tolerance Policies*: Currently, zero-tolerance policies are mostly found in schools to deter students from committing crimes. However, zero-tolerance policies are not effective because they call for immediate and sever punishment without the ability to take into account the student, the students life circumstance, or the way in which the crime arose. There is also a problem with the equal application of the policy that makes it

lose its credibility, therefore, undermining healthy social development and potentially encouraging delinquency.

- *Punishment*: Punishment serves only the purpose of “justice;” it is a penalty for an individual who has wronged society. Punishment does not appear to make a significant contribution to the reduction of recidivism and some forms of punishment can actually increase the chances that a juvenile would recidivate. Neither the certainty, nor the severity, of punishment decreases recidivism among most juveniles. It was found that adolescents who believed that they were more likely to be caught committed more, rather than fewer, subsequent offenses (Schneider, 1990). This may be because punishment currently overestimates the judgmental maturity of adolescents.
- *Scared Straight Programs*: Scared straight programs focus on literally scaring youths out of delinquency. However, on average, these programs increased recidivism by 12 percent (Lipsey, 1992). Scared Straight programs survived the negative evaluations, in part because they “reinvented” themselves by downplaying the scare tactics and emphasizing their shift in emphasis to the provision of education for youngsters about crime consequences.
- *Boot Camps*: Correctional boot camps were first established in the adult criminal justice system in 1983. After being studied in 1994, researchers concluded that recidivism rates for children in boot camps were comparable to those for adults in traditional prisons. They also saw no decrease in drug or alcohol abuse (Henggeler, 1997a; Henggeler & Schoenwald, 1994). The use of boot camps for juveniles began in the 1990s in Ohio, Colorado, and Alabama. An evaluation of these states’ programs showed

that boot camp participants at all three sites were slightly more likely to reoffend after release than were their control group counterparts. Juvenile boot camps have also been shown to produce high levels of anxiety, which has been a strong predictor of recidivism (Gover, MacKenzie, & Armstrong, 2000). As MacKenzie states, “There is no evidence that the correctional boot camps using the old-style military model of discipline, drill, and ceremony are effective methods of reducing recidivism”

- *Large Custodial Facilities:* Large, congregate, custodial juvenile corrections facilities are not effective in rehabilitating juvenile offenders. The most comprehensive follow-up study conducted to date of paroled youths involved inmates released from the largest complex of such facilities in the United States—the California Youth Authority. Haapanen (1990) followed parolees for approximately 15 years following their release in the 1960s. More than 90% continued to be arrested well into their adult years. In another follow-up study of youths released from the California Youth Authority, Visher et al. (1991) found that nearly 9 out of 10 youths recidivated within 3 years following their release. These same results can occur when you put juveniles with any similar issue together—it typically does not work. When it does work, there must be a skilled therapist close by who can manage the counseling to ensure no negative reinforcements are being created between the juveniles.
- *Improper Approach to Drug Abuse:* The main problem with alcohol and drug treatment programs, however, seems to be their failure to address the family, school, and community problems that are strongly associated with adolescent drug use. Various programs have a punitive orientation. As Henggeler (1997a) observes, “It seems unrealistic to expect treatment programs

(e.g., boot camps, wilderness training) that are not family- and community-based and do not address the multiple determinants of drug abuse, to be effective, and such a view is supported by the adult drug-abuse (Institute of Medicine, 1990) and delinquency (Henggeler & Schoenwald, 1994) treatment literatures”.

In conclusion, punishment is not effective in reducing recidivism. A number of juvenile offender rehabilitation programs and strategies clearly do not work, and some of the more punitive ones may actually increase recidivism. To see a change in the system, there must be a change in the policies or practice of the system.

7. International and Regional Frameworks

a. International Frameworks

- *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules) (1985)*: Since this is a really long one, I decided not to add the articles of this document into the study guide; but I strongly advise the delegates to take a look from the resource I submitted, since this is the most important set of rules accepted by the UN [1].
- *United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines) (1990)*: Again, a detailed and important focus on the rules of preventing juvenile delinquency. It focuses on early prevention strategies. Advising to check this document for your preparations too [2].

- *United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (The Havana Rules) (1990)*: Affirms that the placement of a juvenile in an institution should always be a disposition of last resort and for the minimum necessary period; recognizes that, because of their high vulnerability, juveniles deprived of their liberty require special attention and protection and that their rights and well-being should be guaranteed during and after the period when they are deprived of their liberty. This article mostly focuses on issues like children's mental and medical health on such institutions. It sets standards for juvenile detention facilities [3].

- *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (1989) Article 40*:
 - (1) States Parties recognize the right of every child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law to be treated in a manner consistent with the promotion of the child's sense of dignity and worth, which reinforces the child's respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of others and which takes into account the child's age and the desirability of promoting the child's reintegration and the child's assuming a constructive role in society.
 - (2) To this end, and having regard to the relevant provisions of international instruments, States Parties shall, in particular, ensure that:
 - (a) No child shall be alleged as, be accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law by reason of acts or omissions that were not prohibited by national or international law at the time they were committed;

(b) Every child alleged as or accused of having infringed the penal law has at least the following guarantees:

- (i) To be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law;
- (ii) To be informed promptly and directly of the charges against him or her, and, if appropriate, through his or her parents or legal guardians, and to have legal or other appropriate assistance in the preparation and presentation of his or her defense;
- (iii) To have the matter determined without delay by a competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body in a fair hearing according to law, in the presence of legal or other appropriate assistance and, unless it is considered not to be in the best interest of the child, in particular, taking into account his or her age or situation, his or her parents or legal guardians;
- (iv) Not to be compelled to give testimony or to confess guilt; to examine or have examined adverse witnesses and to obtain the participation and examination of witnesses on his or her behalf under conditions of equality;
- (v) If considered to have infringed the penal law, to have this decision and any measures imposed in consequence thereof reviewed by a higher competent, independent and impartial authority or judicial body according to law;
- (vi) To have the free assistance of an interpreter if the child cannot understand or speak the language used;
- (vii) To have his or her privacy fully respected at all stages of the proceedings.

(3) States Parties shall seek to promote the establishment of laws, procedures, authorities and institutions specifically applicable to children alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the penal law, and, in particular:

(a) The establishment of a minimum age below which children shall be presumed not to have the capacity to infringe the penal law;

(b) Whenever appropriate and desirable, measures for dealing with such children without resorting to judicial proceedings, providing that human rights and legal safeguards are fully respected. 4. A variety of dispositions, such as care, guidance and supervision orders; counselling; probation; foster care; education and vocational training programmes and other alternatives to institutional care shall be available to ensure that children are dealt with in a manner appropriate to their well-being and proportionate both to their circumstances and the offence.

- *The Doha Declarations (2015) Article 7*: Emphasizes that education for all children and youth, including the eradication of illiteracy, is fundamental to the prevention of crime and corruption and to the promotion of a culture of lawfulness that supports the rule of law and human rights while respecting cultural identities. In this regard, it also stresses the fundamental role of youth participation in crime prevention efforts, Therefore, the article endeavors;

(a) To create a safe, positive and secure learning environment in schools, supported by the community, including by protecting children from all forms of violence, harassment, bullying, sexual abuse and drug abuse, in accordance with domestic laws;

(b) To integrate crime prevention, criminal justice and other rule-of-law aspects into our domestic educational systems;

(c) To integrate crime prevention and criminal justice strategies into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes, in particular those affecting youth, with a special emphasis on

programmes focused on increasing educational and employment opportunities for youth and young adults;

(d) To provide access to education for all, including technical and professional skills, as well as to promote lifelong learning skills for all (UNODC, 2015).

I hope that our model UNODC will sign to a successful framework like the ones that are mentioned.

b. Regional frameworks

i. Europe

- *European Rules for Juvenile Offenders Subject to Sanctions or Measures*: This is the most-known set of rules for juveniles' rights in Europe. It's based on guidelines for alternative sanctions and rehabilitation of juvenile offenders. I suggest delegates that would like to state out European measures of the agenda to check out this document [4].

ii. Africa

b. *African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (1990) Article 17:*

1. Every child accused or found guilty of having infringed penal law shall have the right to special treatment in a manner consistent with the child's sense of dignity and worth and which reinforces the child respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of others.

2. States Parties to the present Charter shall in particular:

(a) ensure that no child who is detained or imprisoned or otherwise deprived of his/her liberty is subjected to torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

(b) ensure that children are separated from adults in their place of detention or imprisonment;

(c) ensure that every child accused of infringing the penal law:

i. shall be presumed innocent until duly recognized guilty;

ii. shall be informed promptly in a language that he understands and in detail of the charge against him, and shall be entitled to the assistance of an interpreter if he or she cannot understand the language used;

iii. shall be afforded legal and other appropriate assistance in the preparation and presentation of his defense;

iv. shall have the matter determined as speedily as possible by an impartial tribunal and if found guilty, be entitled to an appeal by a higher tribunal;

v. shall not be compelled to give testimony or confess guilt.

3. The essential aim of treatment of every child during the trial and also if found guilty of infringing the penal law shall be his or her reformation, re-integration into his or her family and social rehabilitation.

4. There shall be a minimum age below which children shall be presumed not to have the capacity to infringe the penal law [5].

iii. North & South America

- *The United States Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP Act) (1974, revised in 2018):* Established in 1974 and most recently authorized in 2018 with bipartisan support; based on a broad consensus that emphasizes that children, youth, and families involved with the juvenile and criminal courts should be guarded by federal standards for care and custody, while also upholding the interests of community safety and the prevention of victimization [6]
- *Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) Reports on Juvenile Justice:* This is a document that provides case studies and recommendations by the IACHR, focusing on the Americas [7].

iv. Asia-Pacific

- *SAARC Convention on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion of Child Welfare (2002):* A cooperative arrangement in South Asia; focuses on protection of children from drug abuse, emphasizes effective measures for integration for children in conflict with the law. (SAARC, 2012)
- *Protection of child rights in the ASEAN justice system in response to trafficking in persons (2023):* This assessment demonstrates how six ASEAN Member States - Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Thailand - are implementing child rights and complying with regional and international commitments. It also pinpoints the various barriers that child victims face and

the linkages between the justice system and victim support services. It is supported by the Australian Government funded ASEAN Australia Counter Trafficking program (ASEAN-ACT). The research provides a comprehensive evidence base from which to build child-focused and more inclusive justice systems across the region (ACWC, 2023).

v. Middle East & North Africa region

- *MENA Juvenile Justice Regional Program (Youth4Impact) (UNODC-led, ongoing)*: This is a young project started by the UNODC ROMENA (Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa). Its main purpose is to support projects that keep youth away from juvenile offenses in the MENA region by ensuring new initiatives and projects. The Y4I Project is a significant step in behalf of youth in the MENA region. (United Nations, 2024)

c. Procedure paragons around the world

- *Netherlands, the HALT Program*: HALT provides an immediate response to the incident and confronts the young person with the consequences of their behavior and makes them responsible for it. The sanctions are felt directly and immediately by the young person through time and labor and a fine for cost of the incident. But the young person does not acquire a criminal record. The basic principle of HALT is to change the young person's behavior and stop them from offending in the future. Young offenders receive mental

health screenings, and many are referred to psychologists instead of courts.

- HALT began in Rotterdam in 1981, primarily to tackle vandalism. HALT has now widened its objectives from the prevention of vandalism to other areas of criminal and anti-social behavior committed by young people. The intervention, including referral, interviews, work placement and educational sessions, to closing of the case, normally take about two or three months. This is two or three times faster and more efficient than any other intervention; and HALT relieves pressure on the local juvenile penal system (WODC, 2017).
- *Japan:* The juvenile law of Japan is a good example of the usage of rehabilitation and reintegration. In Japan's laws, the term "juvenile" refers to a person under 20 years of age; the term "adult" refers to a person of 20 years of age or older. The purpose of the Act is to promote the healthy upbringing of juveniles, while correcting personality flaws and modifying the environment of delinquent juveniles through rehabilitation measures, and implementing special measures for juvenile criminal cases. The Juvenile Law stipulates that minors are not given the same punishment as adults, but rather that, in principle, family courts impose measures for their rehabilitation. However, family courts may decide to refer cases to the prosecution for criminal prosecution, and even in such cases, various considerations are stipulated, such as indefinite sentences and mitigation

of sentences. The reason for having such provisions for juveniles is said to be that attention is paid to the plasticity of the personality of minors (Ministry of Justice, Japan, 1948).

Each country has different approaches on preventing juvenile crime, but the successful strategies include early prevention, alternative sentencing, strong education and mental health support and community involvement encourages. The reason I included these countries' strategies are because:

- %85 of the youth in HALT program do not recidivate.
- Japan has one of the lowest youth crime rates in the world.
- Studies show that youth diverted from the justice system have a lower recidivism rate (OJP, 2015).

8. Questions to Consider

- What is the primary issue being addressed, and why is it a global concern?
- What are the root causes of this issue, and how do they differ across regions?
- What existing international laws, treaties, or frameworks apply, and where are the gaps?
- What specific actions should UN member states take to combat this issue effectively?
- How can international cooperation be strengthened to ensure coordinated efforts?
- What financial and technical resources are needed, and how can they be secured?
- What mechanisms should be established to monitor and enforce compliance?
- How to use capacity-building and education to create sustainable solutions?
- What role should NGOs, the private sector, and civil society play in supporting the objectives?
- What benchmarks and evaluation criteria should be used to measure the potential solutions' success over time?

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