

Third Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 2nd, 2024.

Time: 4:00pm - 5:00pm.

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Dr. Umaiyeh Khammash, Rihab Sandouka, Khawla Abu Diab, Dina Moghrabi, Hala Jawhar, Razan Atta, Dr. Ali Shaar, Yamamah Daoud, Hana Rabadi, Dr. Ghassan Issa, Farah Darwazeh, Nabila Espanioly, Bashaer Abu Khadeja, Majda Bitar.

Meeting Minutes:

Key Discussion Points:

1. Overview of Previous Meetings

- **Mrs. Rihab** provided a summary of prior discussions regarding the international conference.
 - The upcoming conference will build on the themes from the symposium held in Amman, which focused on resilience and the libertarian holistic approach.
 - A key objective of the new conference is to hold international institutions accountable for their responsibilities toward Early Childhood Development (ECD), particularly in regions affected by war.
 - **Proposed Example:** UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency) to illustrate how international organizations are impacted by decisions to restrict or freeze operations in Palestine.

2. Conference Themes and Focus

- **Dr. Ali** outlined the broader global perspective of the conference under the Palestinian and Arab Network for Early Childhood (PNECD).

Partners:

- **Early Childhood Peace Consortium:** Focus on raising children's issues in crisis contexts.
- **International Network for Children:** Lessons from experiences, including Ireland, on achieving peace and stability for children.

Themes:

- The impact of conflicts on early childhood from a scientific perspective.

- Effectiveness of international conventions in protecting children during conflicts.
- Development of clear texts and charters to protect childhood rights globally.

Symbolism: Highlighting children's rights in Palestine within the context of global conflicts.

3. Drafts and Preparation

- **Current Progress:**
 - Draft schedule and concept note are ready.
 - A draft budget has been prepared.
 - **Host:** An Najah University will manage media coverage.
 - **Public Relations:** An Najah University has designed a conference logo for approval.

4. Actionable Recommendations

- **Mrs. Nabila** emphasized:
 - The lack of focus and practical tools to protect children's rights during crises.
 - The need to critically analyze current strategies (e.g., in Gaza, Sudan, and Lebanon).
 - Importance of creating practical tools or leveraging existing tools that are underutilized.
- **Dr. Ghassan:**
 - Stressed the importance of highlighting human rights aspects in the conference.
 - Urged the inclusion of studies, such as the **ANECD's review of children's rights laws and legislation in Arab countries**.
 - Recommended inviting UNRWA to shed light on their role and challenges.
- **Dr. Umaiye**h:
 - Suggested inviting high-level representatives from international organizations, particularly UNRWA.
 - Proposed preparing strong conference slogans.
- **Dr. Ali:**

- Confirmed the participation of an Irish lawyer from the International Court of Justice to discuss children's rights.
- Will finalize the concept note and incorporate all recommendations before circulating it to the committee.

Decisions Made:

1. The conference will be held on **February 11th and 12th, 2025**, with the possibility of extending to an extra day.
2. Partners include Early Childhood Peace Consortium, International Network for Children, and other Palestinian and international human rights organizations.
3. UNRWA will be invited to provide insights on international organizations' roles in protecting children's rights.
4. Case studies and critical analysis of existing strategies will be included in the discussions.
5. Practical recommendations and tools for children's rights protection will be a conference priority.

Next Steps:

- **Dr. Ali:** Finalize the concept note and share with the committee.
- **Mrs. Farah:** Share the proposed logo for final approval.
- **Dr. Ghassan:** Share the ANECD study on children's rights in Arab countries with the committee.