

Opening Speech:

Honorable Chair, esteemed delegates,

As the representative of the Russian Federation, I am here to address the critical issue of child protection and the rights of children in conflict-affected areas, particularly in Gaza. We recognize the immense suffering that children face in such environments, and it is our collective duty to ensure their safety and well-being.

We call for immediate humanitarian aid, protection of educational institutions, and comprehensive mental health support for children. Enforcing international laws to safeguard children's rights and hold violators accountable is paramount.

Regarding our special military operation in Ukraine, we are deeply committed to taking all necessary precautions to protect civilians, especially children, and to minimize humanitarian impacts. We emphasize the importance of peaceful resolutions to conflicts to prevent further suffering and ensure the protection of the most vulnerable.

The Russian Federation remains dedicated to collaborating with the international community to safeguard the well-being of children in Gaza, and other conflict-affected areas.

Thank you.

Position paper:

1. **Humanitarian Commitment:** The Russian Federation is deeply committed to the protection of children and has a long-standing history of providing humanitarian aid to conflict-affected areas. We believe that immediate and unimpeded access to essential supplies such as food, clean water, medical care, and shelter is crucial for safeguarding children's well-being.
2. **Protection of Education:** We emphasize the importance of ensuring that children continue to have access to education during conflicts. Schools must be protected from being targeted, and alternative learning environments should be provided to ensure that education is not disrupted.
3. **Mental Health Support:** Addressing the psychological impact of conflict on children is essential. We advocate for the implementation of comprehensive mental health programs to help children cope with trauma and rebuild their lives.

4. **International Law Enforcement:** We stress the importance of upholding international laws and conventions that protect children's rights in conflict zones. Accountability for violations must be ensured to prevent impunity and safeguard future generations.
5. **Precautions in Military Operations:** In our special military operation in Ukraine, we are taking all necessary precautions to minimize the humanitarian impact and protect civilians, especially children. This includes avoiding civilian targets and providing humanitarian corridors to ensure the safety and well-being of the affected population.
6. **Diplomatic Solutions:** The Russian Federation advocates for peaceful resolutions to conflicts. We urge all parties involved in the Gaza conflict to engage in dialogue and negotiations to reach a peaceful settlement, which is the most sustainable way to protect children's rights.

Argument 1: Involvement in Ukraine

Criticism: "How can the Russian Federation advocate for child protection in Gaza while involved in a military operation in Ukraine that impacts civilians, including children?"

Response: We acknowledge the humanitarian impact of our special military operation and emphasize that we are taking extensive precautions to protect civilians, especially children. Our commitment to child protection is universal, and we support all efforts to safeguard the well-being of children in conflict zones, including in Ukraine and Gaza. **Our focus remains on minimizing harm and providing humanitarian aid where needed.**

Counterargument: "Your actions in Ukraine suggest otherwise, as there have been reports of civilian casualties, including children. How can you reconcile these actions with your stated commitment to child protection?"

Rebuttal: We remain committed to minimizing civilian harm and are actively investigating any incidents to ensure accountability. Our efforts in Ukraine include establishing humanitarian corridors and providing aid to affected populations. It is crucial to separate the operational complexities on the ground from our broader humanitarian principles.

Argument 2: Use of Force

Criticism: "The use of force by the Russian Federation in Ukraine undermines its credibility in advocating for peace and child protection."

Response: Our actions are guided by the principle of protecting national security and regional stability. We believe in the importance of diplomatic solutions and are committed to working towards peaceful resolutions in all conflicts. In the meantime, we continue to advocate for and support humanitarian efforts to protect children and civilians in all affected areas.

Argument 3: Double Standards

Criticism: "There are double standards in your approach to different conflicts."

Response: Every conflict has its unique context and complexities. Our approach is to address each situation with the most appropriate measures to protect children and civilians. We consistently advocate for humanitarian aid, protection of educational institutions, and enforcement of international laws, irrespective of the conflict zone.

Counterargument: "Applying different standards to different conflicts undermines the consistency of your humanitarian principles."

Rebuttal: Our principles remain consistent, but the application of these principles must be context-specific to be effective. We tailor our responses to the unique challenges of each conflict to maximize the protection and support for children and civilians.

Argument 4: Human Rights Record

Criticism: "The Russian Federation's own human rights record raises questions about its commitment to child protection."

Response: We are committed to improving and upholding human rights standards both domestically and internationally. Our participation in humanitarian discussions and actions reflects our dedication to these values. We believe that cooperation and collective efforts are essential for addressing and resolving human rights issues globally.

Argument 5: Impact of Sanctions

Criticism: "International sanctions against the Russian Federation might affect its ability to effectively support humanitarian efforts."

Response: Despite sanctions, we remain committed to our humanitarian responsibilities. We continue to provide aid and support through various channels and work with international partners to ensure that essential supplies and assistance reach those in need. Our focus is on collaborative efforts to protect and support children in conflict zones. Still, we recommend every nation to review their current sanctions, not only against Russia, whether they might prevent, those countries affected, to provide better humanitarian aid to citizens worldwide.

Credits:

The Russian Federation has actively engaged with the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, submitting reports and participating in discussions to enhance child protection measures in conflict zones. These efforts highlight our commitment to improving conditions for children affected by conflicts.