

Honoured delegates,

We all came together to discuss the problem of child labour:

All of you know it from your deepest soul- children at the age of 5 must work under dangerous, illegal and extremely exploitative conditions. How can it be that on the one hand we have laws, not allowing child labour, but on the other hand nearly 50 % of children in parts of South America, Asia and Africa must work?



Their families are poor and these children are their last chance and opportunity to survive. They cannot go to school, have no social integration, are not allowed to meet friends and they will never be psychologically or physically developed. But that's not all of it: mentally, physically, socially dangerous and harmful consequences are the generous effects of their work. And the brutal truth is, that these children are also injured by machineries and pesticide poisoning. They even suffer from hunger. Health wise there are many risks - even an extremely high cancer risk.

Child labour laws in Mexico

- Children must be 14 before they can work on a farm.
- Children between 14 and 16 can work up to six hours a day if they have finished school and have a medical certificate⁵ and permission from their parents.
- Children between 16 and 18 must have finished secondary school and need a medical certificate.

I felt so guilty when I heard about these dramatic conditions. Have you ever worked as hard on fields, in mines, in factories, for the domestic trade or for the manufacturing business? I don't think so! These young people waste their lives for illegal and useless work. You can nearly compare the traumatic activities with drug other people's profits or even have to prostitute themselves. It isn't worth it. And that are the reasons why we should stop the illegal child labour. We will carry this problem with us when we ignore all these facts. We should support UNICEF's ideas of a better world for children. They improve the children's education and give them school material. Convincing the farmers to follow the laws is the first step you can do. I really hope you will think about my words and all of you will help me to abolish child labour.

Thank you!

Paulina Kolorz



Shaheen, 10, works at an aluminium factory. Taken in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on November 16, 2009.