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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to NHSMUN 2027 (in my opinion, the best conference ever)! My name is Aairah Bhatti, and I am honored to serve as your Session 1 Director for the United Nations Children's Fund. Being a part of such an incredible organization has been an amazing experience, and I hope you all will feel the same as you begin researching, debating, and writing your resolutions. I have no doubt that this will be a fruitful experience for you all, and I can't wait to meet you this upcoming March!

I'm a second-year Biological Sciences major at Georgia Tech with a minor in Health Policy, and I've been involved in Model United Nations for five years now in both competitive and leadership roles—so don't be afraid to ask for advice or just yap about MUN in general! I competed at NHSMUN back in 2023 in the SOCHUM committee, and I'm coming back this year to staff both the NYC and ATL NHSMUN conferences! More than any other conference I've attended, NHSMUN gave me the opportunity to think about global issues from a more complex perspective while also being incredibly competitive, which I loved. It's one of the reasons I'm so excited to come back on the other side of the dais this year.

Aside from MUN, I'm currently spending a lot of my time exploring the intersection between healthcare and public policy, particularly how policy decisions can shape patient outcomes long before someone ever enters the healthcare system. When I'm not engaged in academics, I love horseback riding, roller skating, and archery. If anyone has any horseback riding recs, please let me know!

This year's topics, "Child Parentification and Parental Absence" and "Preventing Unnecessary Medical Procedures in Children," address crucial issues that children around the world face today. What I find particularly important about these topics is that they can be approached from so many different angles, and every country has something to contribute to the conversation. As you research, these topics will require you to think with empathy and consider the circumstances surrounding each child. Use this Background Guide as a helpful tool, but don't let your research stop here. Go beyond surface-level solutions, and really consider how your country can contribute to creative and well-thought-out resolutions.

I'm so excited to see what you all bring to the table, and I hope you leave this conference having learned something new. Don't ever hesitate to reach out if you have questions, concerns, or just need some advice! Best of luck, and I look forward to seeing you all in March!

Aairah Bhatti

Director of UNICEF, Session I

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to NHSMUN 2027 and to UNICEF! My name is Fernanda Martínez, and I'm really happy and excited to be Session 2 Director for the United Nations Children's Fund. Writing this Background Guide has been an incredible experience, and I hope it helps you to begin exploring these amazing topics. I know that you have been working hard on research, writing, and drafting solutions for our committee. I cannot wait to meet each of you and see the passion and dedication you will bring to the committee.

I am in my second year of Medical School at Universidad Anáhuac México in Mexico City. Medicine has taught me that healthcare is much more than diagnoses and treatments; it's about empathy, humility, and respect. While I haven't chosen a specialty yet, I have always loved pediatrics since we can give voice to those who can't advocate for themselves.

Outside of College, I enjoy going to pilates, the gym, and indoor cycling. I am currently training to become a certified indoor cycling coach! I also love cooking, drawing, traveling, and discovering new places and their culture. I am a huge matcha fan, so I'll never say no to a good matcha. One of my favorite ways to spend my free time, alongside my friends and family, is volunteering and working with my community to bring smiles to those who need it the most.

This is my fourth year with NHSMUN. I attended as a delegate in 2024 for the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), and returned in 2025 as a delegate for UNICEF. I joined NHSMUN staff this past year and became Assistant Director for this same committee, and now, I'm honored to serve as a Director. NHSMUN has been a journey full of challenges to overcome, memories to laugh with, and incredible people to learn from. It has become one of the most meaningful experiences of my life, and I hope it becomes for you as well.

This year's topics, "Child Parentification and Parental Absence" and "Preventing Unnecessary Medical Procedures in Children" are big challenges that children have to face today. They require you to consider ethics, healthcare, and family. Think critically and with empathy. This Background Guide is only the beginning; dive into the information and bring creative and well-researched ideas into discussion.

I know the NHSMUN experience can be challenging. Whether this is your first conference or last, I encourage you to enjoy every moment and to challenge yourselves. Take advantage of every experience NHSMUN has to offer you. I know this committee will be full of fascinating ideas, innovative solutions, and memorable experiences. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or simply to learn more about the topic.

See you in March!

Fernanda Martinez

Director of UNICEF, Session II

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