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Intervention
Mr. Jaewon Choi
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DMUN Foundation

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Madam Moderator, for giving me the floor.

My name is Jaewon Choi and I am a 16 year old young person. I serve as the Executive Director of the DMUN Foundation and Thematic Focal Point for Tax in the Major Group for Children and Youth.

Today, just across the Atlantic from New York, world leaders convened in Seville to open the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development.

We believe that there are great interlinkages between the structural inequalities that plague our financial systems, such as debt traps, regressive tax regimes, and insufficient social protections systems, that do not exist in isolation from the conditions that allow human trafficking to persist.

On the contrary, we believe that these systemic failures create the fertile ground upon which these heinous crimes thrive.

Distinguished colleagues, human trafficking is not only a violation of fundamental human dignity, but an economic crime. It profits from poverty, from broken safety nets, and from an absence of opportunity.

And unless our international financing frameworks address the root causes of these vulnerabilities, we will continue to see millions of people, especially children like me, pushed into the margins where traffickers prey.

Our call as young people is clear: end tax abuse, and we begin to choke the financial lifelines of traffickers.



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Finally, we echo the universal demands made by children and youth here in this conference room and across the globe.

We demand that the Secretariat take necessary steps to eliminate the minimum age requirement for stakeholders to attend high-level conferences, for the upcoming high-level meeting for Human Trafficking.

Excellencies, children and youth demand agile, inclusive, and urgent action. We will not, and cannot, be silenced, neglected, or ignored.

We thank you.