The Republic of Chile

Positions for the General Assembly Plenary

1. **The Role of Youth in Utilizing Media to Promote a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence**

The Republic of Chile supports and agrees with our youth’s need to speak their grievances using the media. In a time where technology has become more prominent, even in developing countries, the impact, importance, and reach of the media has only grown. As a country who values democracy, Chile understands the importance for Member States and the citizens living therein to come together to realize the mistakes in government organizations. During times of past instability, it was Chile’s youth media initiatives that helped further prosperity and peace for Chile. Chile’s youth efforts led to 1,228 administrative investigations being opened in June of 2019. In September of the same year the Comptroller’s Office pressed charges against several police generals for not complying with use of force protocols and in October of 2019, when a series of abuses by Carabineros occurred, our youth played a key role in promoting peace and nonviolence by sharing the wrongful actions on platforms that garnered international attention. Campaigns for the detainment and arrest of these officers arose and on October 28, 2019, five days after the campaigns started, President Sebastian Piñera replaced eight cabinet ministers, including Interior Minister Andrés Chadwick. The media provided pivotal proof of the happenings to the entire world because of the videos and retellings. Chile’s youth media initiatives became the cornerstone for reform in this regard, and our government launched *La Nueva Agenda* as a result, which deals with pensions, public administration, taxes, wages, electric tariffs, and health insurance.

Chile’s National Congress has also acted upon our youths' concerns with how the government is run by signing an agreement to hold a national referendum that would rewrite the constitution if it were approved on November 15, 2019. Due to COVID, the referendum was rescheduled, and on October 25, 2020, 78.3% of Chileans voted in favor of a new constitution. On May 16, 2021, the 155 Chileans where elected whose job was form the convention that will draft the new constitution. Chile’s government has taken various steps towards valuing and listening to the people's voice, and this can be attributed to the power that the media has because of the youth. In having this openness to its people, Chile's government becomes open to change even when all political parties do not agree. We saw this when President Piñera was able to push forward with *La Nueva Agenda* and the national referendum. He was mostly able to do this because of how the media was used to show the problem at hand and the impact that the youth had with the information and facts they received, gave, and made public.

Chile **realizes** the importance that peace and nonviolence has for any country’s foundation and because of this Chile has not only supported our own country’s peace efforts, but those of other Member States as well. In April 2018, an open debate by the Security Council called *Young People Powerful Agents for Resolving, Preventing Conflict, Calls to Change Negative Stereotypes* was held. Many Member States were called to participate, Chile included. From the opinions stated, Chile had an even bigger incentive to implement new changes in the country that came about in reform bills and how federal court cases were handled. Chile has made their position with regional countries known as well. Chile aids and helps advancements of peace towards and within other countries in the type of relations that are kept. The Republic of Chile **proposes** a program of media youth exchanges between countries for the purpose of furthering experience in who announces in the media. The program would target high school and college students who have an interest in being journalists, reporters, media editors, or broadcasters. The high school students would have the opportunity to be in the program for one summer. Chile **suggests** that these youth be sent out in groups of six to fit every category of media job opportunity available. They will work once a week with the local news station to get an inside view of how different countries handle their media. The students will get the chance to cooperate with the outlet as well as have a side task by the exchange program organization to cover breaking news events like their respective job opportunity would. These students would be sent out independently to their respective country and would be enrolled in online classes while they get interning experience at a local news outlet. The students will all have a foster family they will stay with while they are in the country. For college students, the program would work with different colleges from participating countries for students interested in related majors and their tuition would pay for their expenses. High school students would apply for competitive scholarships funded by governments, NGOs, or both. The Republic of Chile **calls on** all Member States to recognize the importance that the youth play in our media. Chile encourages Member States to participate and support a program that will help the youth in the advancement of media, its professionalism, and our youth’s future.

1. **Establishing Internet as a Critical Infrastructure in Developing Member States**

The internet is a part of everyday life now; more than 4.66 billion people worldwide use it. It is introduced in all jobs and used for day-to-day purposes. Its importance has only grown with its reach. Data shows that the Republic of Chile has the highest computer and internet participation across Latin America and the Caribbean. Chile’s inclination of internet and technology use has shown significant growth in the past decade. Only a generation ago, most of the population did not have access to the internet or similar technology as skills in these fields were not needed for a job. However, Chile argues that now, access to the internet, and the skills needed to adequately utilize it, are compulsory. Chile thus **includes** the internet as a part of its critical infrastructure, and **urges** other Member States to do the same. Chile finds the internet to be an important part of how the country is run because of its gateway to the media. Youth like Greta Thunberg further prove this by the environmental stance she takes and the attention she gathers to help not only her country, but Chile and other Member States as well; in fact, Chile has implemented seven new policies that include inspections of liquid wastes, the use of continuous air emissions monitoring, enforcement procedures, and more, all of which have been advocated via the internet. The internet became the stepping stool needed to get the attention that these and similar issues deserve. This is a common occurrence seen with movements all over the world like pay gaps and race inequalities. As a country that has different geographical areas with different climates and settings, it is not always easy for Chile to reach everyone. As such, the internet has been the best place to get information for our citizens, including during times of natural disasters. In the earthquake that happened in October of 2020, the internet became the main source of information that informed not only the outside world, but Chileans on the current country’s status. Therefore, Chile **understands** the need for developing Member States to establish the internet as a critical infrastructure. During COVID-19 the internet has shown itself as the best method of advancement for any country by the wealth of information it provides to its citizens. Educationally and socially, the internet has helped in the development of information that is provided to all citizens, giving the population the critical information that they need.

The internet has already reached a point where there are more people who have access to it than not. This helps, not only with a country going forward, but also it allows a certain responsibility towards other Member States to police and find accountability. There are no longer any secrets in what countries do and because of this the internet is crucial to Chileans. The internet has helped to bring issues to light and has helped the citizens have a voice where they otherwise would not. Therefore, Chile **proposes** setting up a worldwide internet and media policing organization that will work towards making the internet more accessible, but also help towards the freedom of the information given. The organization would be made up of multiple countries but have no real connection to them to avoid biased opinion. The main goal of the organization is to: (1) broaden the internet's reach; (2) give credible information that will continue to help and inform developing Member States; and (3) allow the world to have a deeper connection and understanding with each other to avoid misunderstandings. The Republic of Chile **implores** Member States to realize the importance that the internet plays in society, and **encourages** Member States to realize the impact that the information found on the internet has. Chile looks forward to working with others to develop lasting resolutions to address these issues.