Third General Assembly

Implementing measures working towards enhancing accessibility of global education
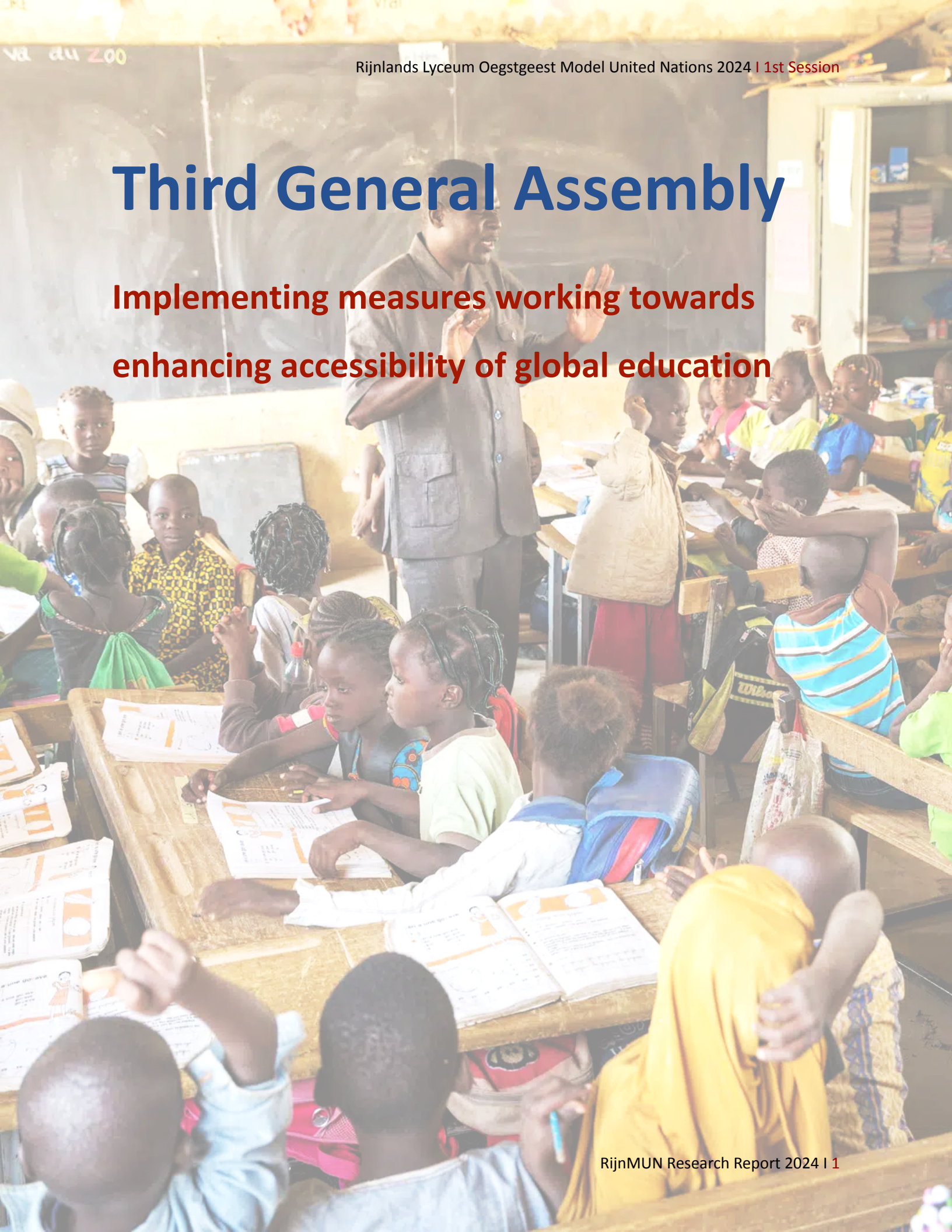
Forum:	Third General Assembly
Issue:	Implementing measures working towards enhancing accessibility of global education
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Introduction

The world has recently had to overcome challenge after challenge: the COVID-pandemic, the increase in climate change, natural disasters and violent conflict. These challenges affect regions all around the world, and stress the importance of global cooperation in battling these issues. However, with many regions lacking in providing proper education for children inhabiting them, there is a lack of global education, which creates a lack of educated individuals capable of working on the global market against problems we all struggle with.

The world has become, in a way, such a universal one, with so many interconnected aspects. In many areas we are extremely dependent on each other, and if one country spirals, many others follow. In such an intertwined world, it is especially important students all receive the same quality and amount of education. Education is crucial in preparing students and shaping skills for the global playground. Both on an individual level and on a global one improvement follows.

In 2023, there were 250 million children out of school. 48% of these 250 million are young women and girls who do not receive the opportunity to go to school. In sub-Saharan Africa, one out of five children do not go to school, with only half attending upper secondary school.

It is incredibly important that the situation is improved. Equal opportunities must be created and protected for everyone, especially in today's age where an understanding of our united world is so vital. This research report will do its best to explain the issue to make it possible for delegates to properly prepare for the complicated task they have at hand.

Key Terms

Education

The process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university.

Marginalization

Marginalization occurs when a person or group is less able to do things or access basic services or opportunities.

Class division

The social stratification and inequality that exist within a society based on economic and social factors.

Drop-out rate

The percentage of students failing to complete a particular school or college course.

(Extreme) educational poverty

Educational poverty takes place when students study for a period that is shorter than four years. In extreme cases, this period is less than two years.

General Overview

Education is extremely necessary for the development of children. It can expand their horizon and make them learn many things about both themselves, and the world, eventually increasing their chances to succeed and create a better life for them and their family. The consequences of good education can be seen in the society shaped later on. This overview will do its best to explain the issue enough for delegates to study the importance of this topic and prepare for debate.

Historical background

Education has had many different styles and purposes over the years, and its significance and importance was not always considered at the same level. In primitive cultures, education focused on shaping children to become new members of the society, by teaching them how everything worked as well as explaining myths and traditions. In early civilizations, this changed to formal schools with clear directions and aims. This was aimed more at privileged youth, and in Egypt and Mesopotamia it was provided by priests. The curriculum consisted of a variety of disciplines and was often practiced through simple memorization. In Chinese civilization, education focused on moral shaping. New World civilizations, such as the Aztecs, focused on cultural preservation and training for specific employment in their education. In other regions, education would go on to focus on religion, followed by history and exact topics like physics and astronomy. A common ideology was that education of girls was a waste , and was not made accessible for people of lower classes.

 In 1948 the UN established the Universal Declaration of Human rights, in this declaration article 26 established the right to elementary and fundamental education as a one of 30 articles. In several other UN declarations since then, the right to an educational program has been protected.

Feel free to not listen to my comments about the Human Rights Declaration, however I feel this aligns with the point you were trying to make and strengthens the report :)!

Lack of access to education

There are many reasons children do not have access to the education they need and deserve, and they are different for each individual as well as each region. A solution, therefore, is not one simple idea, rather a multi-faceted one, taking the many aspects into consideration. Marginalization and poverty remain often at the center of reasons. Inequality is often a reason why children are not allowed access to school. Gender, sexuality, religion and ethnicity usually limit one's possibilities in regions that are still developing (however, the issue also finds its way to more developed countries). Poverty and unemployment in the child's family also often pose an issue. Children might be pulled out of school, either because the parents have no means to afford the classes, or because it is necessary for the child to start working as well. A combination of these factors can double a child's non-schooling risk and drop-out rate.

A different reason is the economic situation of a nation in and on its own. A lack of financial resources makes it impossible for the quality of education to be on the level children need and deserve. Emerging countries are not capable of building schools, providing materials and training teachers, which leads to stuffed classrooms with inadequate teachers.

Areas in need of attention

The Pacific region and Central and Eastern Asia are both severely affected by the problem. Tens of millions of children do not have the proper access to education, but the problem is even worse in Sub-Saharan Africa. Both educational poverty and extreme educational poverty are extremely present issues in the regions. Over half of the children in Sub-Saharan Africa do not receive education for more than four years. Access to universal primary education is still far from being reached.

Children leaving school so early without acquiring any basics has consequences for both the child and the nation. The children have less opportunities and are forced to continue this cycle of poverty, and the nation continues with no significant economic or social development. There is also a severe inequality noticed between boys and girls. Girls make up for over half of the uneducated population, and the cause is rooted in the conservative belief that girls are meant to become homemakers, while boys go out and provide. In Arab states as well as Asian

regions, this cultural and traditional treatment is most persistent. In Yemen, over 80% of girls will never receive education, in Sub-Saharan Africa this number lies around 12 million, while countries such as Somalia and Afghanistan make no effort to reduce the gender gap.

Internet access

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many schools were closed due to risks of infection. Around 1.5 billion students were affected by the lack of education during this time, which drew attention to the importance of internet access. Many students were unable to study the entire time the pandemic was going on because they did not have any access to learning systems.

Many studies have suggested that digital learning extensions are incredibly useful for students, increasing they're chance to pass exams as well as understanding of topics through visual means. However, in Sub-Saharan Africa, like other places, only 18% of primary schools have access to these tools, limiting chances greatly.

Access to the internet is becoming more and more important as our world grows more dependent on online extensions. Additionally, remote schooling and homeschool can also help students without the means to travel back and forth each day, increasing again the amount of children in school.

Education remains incredibly important, and the improvement of its quality can do great things for a country's own economy. The Indian education system has improved significantly over the last few years, and this is often used as one of the reasons for the country's economic development. To conclude this section, there are many sides to this coin that should be taken into consideration. In the next sections, delegates may find possible solutions and how this problem should be handled to prevent its future expansion.

Major Parties Involved

South Sudan

Over 70% of children in South-Sudan are out of school. There are two main reasons for this: children live in pastoral communities, and are constantly moving, which makes it difficult for them to regularly follow classes, or traditional beliefs keep them from attending school, which is seen with most of the girls in the region.

Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, the educational gap between boys and girls is incredibly large. Under the Taliban regime, it is almost impossible for girls to attend school. This started after the Taliban coup in 2021 and does not seem to have improved, or to possibly improve in the near future.

Chad

Despite the efforts made by the government, the educational level in Chad remains low. Only 20% of children have the necessary foundation of math and reading after finishing primary school and the illiteracy amongst the youth is over 70%, with an even higher number amongst girls and young women. Humanitarian crises and the low academic level of teachers are at the root of this problem.

Somalia

Somali education is incredibly inaccessible, and the quality remains low. Overcrowded classrooms and unfacilitated school grounds create challenges for many children in the region. Many girls are not in school, and a combination of conflict and natural disaster makes it difficult for displaced families to send their children to school.

Timeline of Key Events

Date	Event
Ancient times	The first education systems were set up, usually more developed for nobility and boys
Middle Ages	Education focuses around religion
1837	Horace Mann implements the first tax-funded schools in the USA, making education accessible to children of all kinds with teachers with the same training
1948	Universal Declaration of Human Rights is accepted
1959	Declaration of the Rights of the Child is accepted
1989	Convention on the Rights of the Child is accepted
2021	Resolution on the Right to Education is accepted

UN Involvement and Other Treaties

In this section, you may find a few treaties passed by the United Nations on this topic. They will be elaborated upon more thoroughly in the next section.

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 10 dec. 1948, (A/RES/217(III))
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 nov. 1989, (A/RES/44/25) (an updated version of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1959)
- The Right to Education, 12. Jul. 2021, (A/HRC/RES/47/6)

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

In the section above, you may find a few resolutions and declarations by the United Nations related to this topic. They all aim to accomplish the same thing: global equal access to education. In some of them, education is only part of a list, while in others it is the main focus. One of the Sustainable Development Goals aims towards quality education, with free primary and secondary education for all children. The United Nations aims to eliminate inequality through several means and hopes to create equal and affordable access to higher education.

The UN declaration of children's rights served a pivotal role in establishing international laws focused on children and remains at the root of a large part of the action undertaken to protect children. Nations and organizations attempt to help less-developed regions by providing necessary supplies and assisting in the process of creating a school. This can often be a great help, but sometimes the project takes a turn for the worse without a specific figure in control. The UN has started many initiatives in vulnerable regions, with many volunteers helping out. Despite the occasional mishap, this usually ends on a positive note.

Possible Solutions

As explained throughout this report, the issue is one not solved with one brilliant idea, but instead a combination of bright thoughts into one solution. A few possible ideas will be explained in this section, hopefully simplifying delegates' process when working on their own resolutions.

Cooperation

A natural possibility is the cooperation between nations focused on assisting developing nations in their process of creating equal access to education. The lack of proper education sometimes comes from a place of trouble creating, managing and improving schools in the region, which is something other nations can aid in. Providing other nations with products necessary is also a possibility, as well as helping the country with training teachers and other aspects of the issue.

Through this cooperation, there are a few specific improvements delegates could focus on: access, enhancement and emergency. In many cases, children are forced out of school due to emergencies and disasters which prevent them from attending classes. This can be either due to destroyed buildings or risks that come with following school and should be minimized as much as possible. Looking at means to teach children in such environments can be very helpful. Furthermore, enhancing the available means improves education as well. Many educational systems do not have proper resources available to them, making for poor quality of education. Finally, these all come together in making sure children all have the same access to the same quality of education.

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Appendix

When preparing for debate, it might be useful for delegates to look up their specific country on the UNICEF website, and then read the education section there. It provides a brief overview of the situation which can facilitate understanding the position delegates are representing.

Here is an example: https://www.unicef.org/somalia/. Delegates then replace Somalia (in this case) with their country.