

## THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

### UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND

#### ENSURING EDUCATION FOR ALL

The United Nations and its committee, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), acknowledge the importance of education as a basic fundamental right under the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 26. At the World Conference on Education for All in 1990, UNICEF developed a strong focus on education in order to increase access to quality education for all citizens in all member states. The United Nations has added this focus to Goal 4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which provides a framework for states to compare their education levels to and set goals for their education systems. UNICEF is currently focusing on improving and creating new forms of education to bring about more equality in education systems to limit the effects that gender, societal position, location, or disability play in hurting the education system. An example of this includes solar-powered tablets in Sudan, for the purpose of delivering math lessons. UNICEF is also currently implementing "Every Child Learns 2019-2030," which focuses on children excluded from the education system due to gender, disabilities, crises, and wealth. There would also be more focus on reaching children during their younger years and adolescence to include them in the state's public education system.

The Republic of Kenya understands how significant of a role education plays in its society and has implemented various articles and acts to better its education system. Article 53 (1) (b) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 offers free primary education to every child, while Article 55 (a) forces the state to take measures to increase access to education. Article 56 (b) states that minorities have the right to special opportunities in education. The Basic Education Act enforces the Constitution, and the Children's Act protects a child's right to education. For example, in 2022, the Children's Act took away the power of parents and other citizens to punish a child. The second Medium Term Plan of Vision 2030 identifies specific policies and projects to enact to better the education system. The Policy Framework for Education and Training is used to meet the goals and objectives of UNICEF's "Education for All" focus. Statistics from the World Bank show an increase in Kenya's literacy rate, from 72.16% in 2007 to 82% in 2018.

The Republic of Kenya proposes for a subsidy to be implemented for a child's books, uniforms, supplies, and transportation, as these problems hurt millions of families and decrease the number of students going to school. However, Kenya understands that a monetary solution would not work in every situation, and there are various more solutions needed. Kenya suggests a further development in technology for remote learning, which would help breach the gap between the negative effects of location and disabilities, such as a program that converts English to Braille for blind students. Remote learning would also help education continue throughout a crisis, as education takes a lot of time to recover after a crisis. The Republic of Kenya urges women to take more positions and stances in the government, which would have a beneficial impact on decreasing the gender gaps in education systems. Lastly, Kenya proposes initiatives such as cross-border mobility of students as another source to fix the problems in member states' education systems.