

**Delegation from**

**The Kingdom of Swaziland**

**Represented by**

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**Position Paper for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)**

The topics which must be discussed during the UNESCO committee sessions are: Governance and its Effects on Education; Preservation of World Heritage Sites; and Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030. These three topics play a major role in the development of a country but, according to Swaziland, the third point about Education 2030 is the one that needs to be focused on because free education is an asset that will help people all over the world to get out of poverty, which is one of the main and most worrying issues of our time.

**I. Governance and its Effects on Education**

Swaziland, located in Southern Africa, is a small country. About 1,451,428 inhabitants live there of which 39.8% are children under fifteen years old, which makes education one of the government's priorities. Though a high percentage of corruption is listed in Swaziland (57% according to Transparency International Index), the Ministry of Education and Training works very hard to get the Swazi population a high quality education accessible to all, even to orphans and children with specific needs in terms of education. Indeed, the Ministry of Education and Training aims "To provide relevant, quality and affordable education and training opportunities for the entire populace of the Kingdom of Swaziland in order to develop all positive aspects of life for self-reliance, social and economic development and global competitiveness." In fact, Swaziland thinks education play a key role to improve the economy and living conditions. Therefore, Swaziland believes that a training must be offered to all teachers to help them master the latest teaching methods to be more professional. Sensitizing the population to the need to get a great education with the purpose of encouraging people

to become teachers is also a good solution to the lack of instructors in some regions around the world. The Ministry of Education and Training of Swaziland decided to pay a particular attention to the poorest schools in the country to provide them with computers or books as shown with the Support to Education and Training (SET) programme. In sum, Swaziland thinks Education is key to its success and more solutions to make it affordable to all must be found.

## **II. Preservation of World Heritage Sites**

In 2005, Swaziland ratified the Convention about the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Later on, in 2006, Swaziland submitted the Ngwenya Mine (one of the oldest mines in the world) to be a cultural World Heritage Site, but it was rejected because none of the criteria were completely respected. Despite this, Swaziland supports the preservation of all the World Heritage Sites because the respect of cultural diversity is one of its values. Therefore, Swaziland is full of beautiful monuments that represent the history and culture of the country and would like to preserve them and make them known and accessible to other people all over the world. In the past years, Swaziland required the financial and technical help of UNESCO to preserve them—even if they are not World Heritage Sites—and is really thankful to this organization. In fact, with the Flanders funds-in-trust, seven African countries (including Swaziland) have implemented a project for preserving their intangible heritage sites. Then, the authorities will be encouraged to review and arrange the policies about preservation and organize future actions to promote these sites. Sensitizing the youth to the preservation of World Heritage Sites is an action that must be adopted by all nations according to Swaziland. In fact, a workshop has already been organized for "Youth Leaders on the Values of Heritage Sites" in South Africa. Swaziland believes other events like this must take place.

## **III. Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030**

Since 1997, Swaziland has been investing more money in education and, with the help of UNESCO, realized four of the seventeen goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). Swaziland adopted multiple policies such as "EFA plan.no2, EMIalatini Comprehensive Plan, National Policy Statement On Education, Special Education Policy Statement, The Teaching Service Commission Act and Education Sector Policy" to improve the quality of education which are strongly recommended to be adopted in countries where access to a proper education needs to be worked on. As an example,

the Early Learning and Developments Standards was adopted with the contribution of UNICEF. It states all the basic knowledge that children should know. The implementation of this policy resulted in more children frequenting primary schools and also more girls attending school. Thus, Swaziland believes that by talking, the Nations could establish a standard of education and a series of policies that will help reduce the rate of children and teens who will never attend school. Nevertheless, Swaziland wants to improve further its education program because there are some difficulties that have not been resolved. The limited amount of children participating in the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE), the lack of good working conditions and of qualified teachers in some sectors, the badly maintained supervision of education programs, and privately owned schools are some examples of these.

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