

Position Paper for the United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

The State of Libya would like to thank the United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for choosing three important topics that are relevant to every Member State. These important matters are, Governance and its Effects on Education, Preservation of World Heritage Sites and Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030. Libya is very much concerned about all these topics and since the post-Gaddafi era, there has been a vigorous effort by our government towards education and the protection of the World Heritage Sites. Libya believes that, by working together, the International Community can solve the problems that we are facing. By keeping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in mind, we will be able to find solutions that can benefit all the Member States present here today.

I. Governance and its Effects on Education

Libya truly understands the benefit of effective governance on education and sustainable development, such as a healthy economy and a population's wellbeing. As Transparency International once stated; "Corruption is robbing billions of people of a brighter future. It's time for justice." Political instability in countries pushes towards corruption and reprehensible acts. Libya thinks the International Community should give power to responsible governments whom will be clean, which will in turn, guarantee a brighter future for generations to come. There have been many actions taken by our government to fight corruption in our country and the rest of the world. As a matter of fact, Libya has signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2003 (UNODC, 2016) and later on, ratified it in 2005. In 2013, after the revolution, a new Bill on transparency and anti-corruption was adopted. It created the National Identification Number (NID), which gives a specific number to every individual. It helps ensure every transfer and payment goes to the right person (Mohamed Eljarh, 2013). The creation of the Audit Bureau 56 years ago in Libya, which seeks to fight corruption in the country and serves as another response to fraud by the Libyan government (Houda Mzioudet, 2014). They have access to every transaction that has been made and they create reports every year. The Audit Bureau have helped stop corruption by freezing bank accounts of a hundreds of companies and individuals "suspected of "currency smuggling" and using "fake official documents" (John Lee, 2016). They can review the contracts that are signed by the prime minister and they have the right to intervene if they see any violation taking place. There also is a group of young adults named H2O, which is a non-governmental organization (NGO), that launched a campaign to keep citizens informed about our country and our nation's policies. They are also making efforts to stop corruption and facilitate the transition towards democracy. This group of young adults promote democracy by holding rallies and getting the population involved in politics. First, Libya believes that we should implement organizations like these in every country. The Libyan government also feels like there should be an office working for the government in every country that has a sole goal of taking action against corruption. Second, Libya believes that peace talks should be started all around the globe, in regions where there exists political instability so that there could be responsible governments elected in these regions.

II. Preservation of World Heritage Sites

Today, a lot of the World Heritage Sites are in danger due to some groups, armed forces and individuals taking advantage of the vulnerability of governments going through difficult times. International Sites such as the ancient city of Palmyra, the Imam Dur Mausoleum, Cyrene, the old town of Ghadames and Sabratha are some of the sites that have been looted and wrecked (Andrew Curry, 2015). The State of Libya feels deeply shocked by all these barbaric acts against what represents the History of the World. Libya believes that we should all work together to make these deplorable situations stop and help the governments touched by these destructions get back on their feet. Libya treasures the World Heritage Sites and wishes to protect the history of our world and of the humanity. To do so, Libya has participated in meetings with the UNESCO and their experts to discuss the protection of national Heritage Sites in 2011 and reconstruction was financed by the UNESCO in February 2013 to ensure that cultural heritage will be preserved. Furthermore, the 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict with Regulations for the Execution of the Convention was ratified by Libya (UNESCO, 2016). This

convention defined, protected, safeguarded and demanded respect for the cultural sites throughout the world. Then, the 1970 Convention on the means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property was also ratified by Libya (UNESCO, 2016). This convention is against the trafficking of artefacts from cultural sites. In a few regions, armed forces are not respecting these two conventions and Libya is outraged by these acts of war against humanity. In order to protect and preserve our sites and objects of world heritage significance, there has been work done with experts from the United Nation (UN). For example, the Libyan government has secured the Heritage Sites, extended the sites so that combats do not come any closer to the sites and we put objects of value in hidden places to protect them (Thomas Page, 2016). First, Libya thinks that other Member States who do not have the same problems as us, like war and armed forces causing damages to our precious sites, must provide help to those in need. They should send funds to governments with endangered sites and they could also send experts from their own countries to assess the damages on Sites, transmit knowledge on preservation efforts and come up with solutions to protect the World Heritage Sites or to repair them if they are already damaged. Second, the Libyan government thinks that the UNESCO could intervene by sending their peacekeepers on the field to protect the Cultural Heritage sites in zone of war. This way, a lot less damages would occur to the sites by individuals or groups.

III. Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030

For Libya, education is a right which every human should have access to. As a matter of fact, the Libyan government believes that every girl and boy should have access to quality, equal and free education, no matter where they are from or what their social rank is as it appears in our constitution of 2011 that endorses the basic human rights (Constitute, 2016). In Libya, the literacy rate among 15 years and older is more than 90% and in the last 30 years, it has improved by over 30%. The gross enrolment ratio for primary education is 114.54% and 101.56% for secondary education in Libya (UNESCO institute for statistics, 2015). Yet UNESCO's official data approximates the number of out-of-schools children at 263 million, an unacceptable number. The youth is the future in every aspect of our society and thus, we have to give them the resources needed to achieve the best for our planet and our world. The only way to do so is by ensuring their education. Libya has taken considerable steps towards accomplishing this goal, by signing the Convention on the rights of the child in 1989, which was a huge success. Despite this convention, there are still millions of children that are forgotten and it is for them that we will have to work together. There have also been two new ministries created in our country by the government in 2011, namely the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. The ministry of Education acted immediately, as he conducted the assessment of schools all around the nation in 2011 (Acted, 2011). It showed that 40% of the schools had received damages (The Tripoli Post, 2013) from the revolution that had occurred in 2011 in Libya. Moreover, the 1960 Convention against Discrimination in Education was ratified by Libya. That convention sought to eliminate discrimination including distinction, exclusion, limitation and preference regarding the difference of another individual in any educational system. Any Member State signing the treaty also engaged in not having any discriminatory laws in the educational field. Indeed, Libya has various programs to help boys and girls gain access to education, such as the renovation of the schools that were destroyed during the civil war in 2011, an examination of school program and of the books that are used, and printing new textbooks for different subjects. By making all this happen, the Libyan government believes that it will help develop future citizens that will participate in the growth of the national economy. The State of Libya affirms that by taking all these measures, better days for the education system are ahead of us. First, Member States who do not possess a quality, equal and free education should change that. Second, an assessment of the school programs throughout the world is a good idea that Libya supports.

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