

***Delegation from
The Republic of Lebanon***

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Lebanon

During the next United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) conference, the committee will be discussing three topics. These topics are Governance and its Effects on Education, Preservation of World Heritage Sites, and Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030. The delegate of Lebanon looks forward to partnering with the chairs, vice-chairs and other member states to resolve many issues to multiple problems within these three topics.

TOPIC 1: GOVERNANCE AND ITS EFFECTS ON EDUCATION

It is certain that good education will strengthen the international society. Therefore the government of any nation must be strong in other for the education of that country to be successful. Without good education for children, poverty will continue to destroy UNESCO's nation-states and may even grow stronger. Main factors that contribute to poor and ineffective governance are corruption in a government, political instability and financial crisis. Corruption is unethical actions of government officials for selfish gain. Fortunately, The United Nations addresses it and takes action. An example of the UN's work is the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). The UNCAC covers prevention, criminalization, law enforcement measures and other important aspects to help stop corruption in governments. Another group that helps to stop corruption in governments is Transparency International (TI). Political Instability is another issue preventing education that will be discussed during the committee sessions. Political Instability in Syria has caused many schools to be closed down. Lebanon has accepted many refugees in camps but the education provided in the camp is not as effective as education should be for children. 'No Lost Generation', an education program has been effectively helping in Refugee camps but there are other problems that need to be addressed. UNESCO must effectively find solutions to these problems.

Lebanon's Position

The government of Lebanon notices the crisis of uneducated children and the governments connections to this crisis. Without proper a government to lead a country UNESCO's education goals will not be reached, and many other problems within the country will thrive. Lebanon believes that UNCAC has not been effective but that in situations such as government corruption one can not rush change. Also, Lebanon believes that paying civil servants may help slightly, but some countries such as Lebanon can not afford to pay civil servants more. Lebanon notices that its transparency is nonexistent and would like to discuss with other member-states of UNESCO on how developing countries can improve. Although, without Lebanon strongly believes that Transparency International (TI)'s information is unreliable and could be inaccurate and should not be taken into consideration. Lebanon is fortunate to have the education program 'No Lost Generation' but believes that it has not been effective enough because Lebanon is in great need of supplies and financial support to satisfy the children's needs. Training for teachers in developed countries such as the United States need to occur so that they can come abroad and teach

effectively in the camps. Lebanon will strongly support its positions but will try to be as flexible as possible.

TOPIC 2: PRESERVATION OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Historical sites continue to help us and will help future generations uncover each nation's unique history and past. Meaning, that the World Heritage Sites need to be preserved. The international treaty called the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972 embodies the significance and importance of the preservation of the sites. Overtime, preservation of these sites have been made difficult and The World Heritage Committee is faced on tackling these issues. The World Heritage Committee's biggest challenges are preserving these sites when climate change and war slowly destroy them. Currently, many sites are being damaged due to global warming and scientists say that the rising of the water levels is supposed to damage more (more research needs to be done). As seen with Norway's sustainable tourism the combination of tourism and World Heritage can be beneficial to private industries and the sites themselves. Although climate change's effect on the World Heritage Sites, physical conflict such as in wars have an equal effect on the World Heritage Sites. The United Nations is not entirely confident on their jurisdiction over World Heritage Sites in nations. The Syrian Civil War is an example of the damage that has been done the World Heritage Sites. Many of the sites in Syria and Iraq have been damaged greatly. Solutions for preserving these sites from destruction caused by climate change and violence must be defined.

Lebanon's Position

Like many member states in UNESCO, Lebanon has World Heritage Sites that need to be protected. Lebanon's 5 World Heritage Sites are Anjar (1984), Baalbek (1984), Tyre (1984), and Ouadi Qadisha (The Holy and Valley) and the Forest of the Cedars of God (Horsh Arz el-Rab) (1998). The state plans on nominating eight more sites for World Heritage Site titles. Lebanon believes that preservation of these sites are critical for history. Lebanon would like to address global warming's impact on the World Heritage Site. Lebanon recognizes that climate change has currently become irreversible but understands that it is not unstoppable. The state is attempting to implement multiple adaption strategies, but these strategies are expected to be proven effective in 2030. The major problem that Lebanon faces is that the state does not have a sustainable development path, therefore Lebanon needs help with financing eco-efficient plans. Lebanon was able to implement a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 2015. Lebanon also has many future plans. This includes achieving land degradation neutrality by 2030. and fully restructuring the power sector. To fully reconstruct, Lebanon needs stated, needs materials and financing. Lebanon's overall goal is to lower carbon emissions to help UNESCO preserve the World Heritage Sites. Due to Lebanon's financing issue, the state firmly believe that a team of people, representing their geographical area will form a smaller group United Nations World Conservation Financing Union (UNWCFU) to debate where the financing for the creation of any preservation method will come from. Lebanon strongly urges developed countries to bring forth money to help developing countries. Concerning preservation in unstable regions, Lebanon can not put much time and effort into aiding in these situations. The state notices the importance but our resources are very tight because of our assistance in the refugee crisis. In regards to whether or not the UN has jurisdiction over area where sites are being damaged due to war, Lebanon believes that does not have a set opinion on what to do with those preservation sites. The delegate hopes to learn more and form an opinion and decision on behalf of Lebanon during the committee meetings. Lebanon is looking forward to debating these topics and finding solutions.

TOPIC 3: SUPPORTING AND ACCOMPLISHING EDUCATION 2030

One of UNESCO's greatest values is education and the committee was able to adopt the Incheon Declaration for Education 2030. Its purpose is to improve education for all individuals without exclusion. Funding is deeply necessary for the success of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4), which is outlined in the Education 2030 plan. The Declaration suggests that each member state increase spending on education to a benchmark of 4-6% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of to 15-20% of the total public expenditure. Due to the difference in situations that each nation is in, developed countries should provide 0.7% of their GDP to the Official Development Assistance (ODA) for developing countries. A prevention to achieving this goal is that many children are not able to receive any form of education due to conflict or national disaster. Conflict and disasters can cause destruction to educational institutions. Lack of gender equality in some member states also prevent to full success of Education 2030. The UN has faced some of these issues by adopting MDGs. Literacy rates, and rate of enrollment in school have improved. SDG4, represented by, Education 2030 was also adopted in 2015. Differing from The MDG that focused on children, the SDG includes adults as well. UNESCO has been entrusted to lead SDG4. Each member state, no matter the situation, must help develop ideas to ensure the Education 2030 is a success.

Lebanon's Position

Lebanon understands the importance of universal education for all peoples and plans on achieving UNESCO's goals. Lebanon does not agree with each country should increase spending on education to a benchmark. The member state is currently in a financial crisis with the Syrian Refugees and can not afford to put any more money into education. We believe that developing nations can help further Education 2030 by enforcing laws within their nation state that give children and adults the right to education. Due to the conflict and financial crisis of most developing countries, Lebanon recognizes the difficulty it is to ensure that education institutions are kept safe and to pay for extra teachers and supplies for the school. Lebanon relies on developing countries to help with extra funding. This also implies that a international for primary and secondary schools is unrealistic because of every country's condition. It can be discussed again in the future. Lebanon looks forward to discuss how we can fully execute the Incheon Declaration for Education 2030 and effectively pursue and reach the goals listed within.

CONCLUSION

The topics of Governance and its Effects on Education, Preservation of the World Heritage Sites and Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030 are critically important for progression internationally. We are certain that at our future meeting, debate and discussion will be used properly to implement new programs or do whatever is necessary to start resolutions to these problems. Lebanon is positive that by the end of the weekend UNESCO would have accomplished much and the representative or delegate of Lebanon is looking forward to the future committee meeting.