Committee: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
Organization: World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers
Topics: Governance and its Effects on Education, Preservation of World Heritage Sites
& Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030
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The World's Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) is a global network of 3,000 news publishing companies and technology entrepreneurs in over 120 countries. This non-government organization is a major advocate of press freedom and the crucial role it performs in open societies. Additionally, WAN-IFRA monitors, supports and shares new innovations and practices to provide the right platform for community engagement and information sharing. The headquarters are located in Paris, France and Darmstadt, Germany.

Topic One: Governance and its Effects on Education

It is a government's duty to provide citizens with their needs and rights. Education is a both an internationally recognized right and a building block of life, for an individual's self-improvement and for a nation's economy and society. However, education and its substantial benefits are too often lost in the very body that is sworn to protect it. Corruption and political instability have huge effects on education. Over 124 million children suffer from the effects of poor governance, unable to attend school and receive a proper education.

Since its founding in 1948, WAN-IFRA has been a defender of free press, the very core of free expression, striving to inform citizens all around the world, safeguard access to knowledge and challenge or investigate governments. An independant media plays a huge role in minimizing corruption, as many countries with the most restricted media ranked low in the Corruption Perceptions Index, such as Somalia, Eritrea and Turkmenistan. Conflict goes hand-in-hand with corruption as well, though in the opposite sense, fueling it, rather than

improving public transparency. Furthermore, war and violence on their own have immense impact on education, making it inaccessible, or dangerous to the point of life-threatening.

To keep corruption and conflict from hindering the education of millions, the delegation of WAN-IFRA proposes the following solutions: (1) the creation and implementation of an international Anti-Corruption Program based on accountability and a free press; and (2) further research, support and funds for mobile education with the goal of creating sustainable solutions.

Fighting corruption requires both internal political will and external public pressure. Governments must strive to be transparent and citizens must hold their government accountable. An independant media plays a key role, first with involving and empowering the public through awareness campaigns, then with investigating and reporting the government's actions. Through collaborative efforts of the press and the public, corruption can turn from a seemingly low risk, high profit activity for those involved to one that is high risk and low profit.

Secondly, education can no longer take a backseat in during war and other times of conflict. It is crucial for post-conflict peace sustainability as a lack of education can lead to more conflict. When youth are engaged through education, there is less incentive for them to turn to violent groups and terrorism. Mobile education, such as ENEZA's SMS learning system, is key to providing displaced and/or refugee children with access to education. Supporting local efforts is vital as well to create a long-term, sustainable solution.

WAN-IFRA is looking forward to working with other organizations and countries to fight against corruption and keep governments accountable. Furthermore, it looks favourably upon the international community supporting mobile education for children in conflict, in hopes that no generation will be lost without education.

Topic Two: Preservation of World Heritage Sites

Every country is defined by their history and culture. These two aspects make up the heritage and story of the world as it is known today. Unfortunately, there are many obstacles to preserving heritage sites and antiquities such as natural disasters, climate change and war. As the strain of preserving the 1,052 World Heritage Sites becomes heavier and heavier, it is important to be more selective with the sites promoted to this status.

WAN-IFRA's global alliance of newspapers is dedicated to reporting stolen artifacts and the illegal antiquities trade to warn unsuspecting buyers. Keeping citizens informed is important as when there are fewer buyers, the economic benefits are stalled and looters are forced to hold onto the artifacts longer, increasing the likelihood of them getting caught. Furthermore,

WAN-IFRA newspapers report events happening around the world, raising awareness about the cultural significance of various current and potential World Heritage Sites.

To preserve World Heritage Sites, the delegation of WAN-IFRA proposes the following solutions: (1) the extensive documentation of all properties within Sites; (2) the implementation of increased investigation and punishment for illegal antiquities trade; and (3) the development of reconstruction plans in the event of destruction.

First and foremost, new technologies such as 3D lasers, virtual realities and sharing networks should be taken advantage of to create or improve meticulous reports of World Heritage Sites and the artifacts (if any) located within them. Better documentation not only provides accurate and comprehensive learning and studying material, but also precautions against looting and priceless history from disappearing into private collections. Better policing and investigation of the international antiquities could turn up more artifacts from pillaged sites, which can be more easily verified with records that contain minute details of the original.

Additionally, the international community should work with private collectors to come to agreement that if a collector is unwilling to donate or sell an artifact, archaeologists are allowed to study its origin and meaning. Without a history, an antiquity is simply beautiful, but meaningless. Finally, in the event of natural disasters or wars where World Heritage Sites have been destroyed, governments should consider reconstruction. Although some authenticity may be lost, they are still sites of cultural and historical meaning. More detailed reports of original sites are also beneficial during reconstruction to create as close a replica as possible.

International collaboration and accepting the present to record the past are the two key elements the delegation of WAN-IFRA believes can lead to better preservation of World Heritage Sites to ensure current and future generations are able to learn about their country's history and culture.

Topic Three: Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030

Education is vital in helping lift individuals/families out of poverty and advancing a developing country. While there have been many improvements in education enrolment and literacy rates, the global community still struggles to finance universal education. Many countries are unable to allocate sufficient funds with more immediate needs such as hunger, shelter and war. On a smaller scale, many families and individuals are unable, or choose not to access education for the same reasons. With the rapidly advancing technology and global innovation today, WAN-IFRA believes there is no better time to make plans for education in the future.

In addition to reporting about changes, technologies and reforms in education all around the world with our 18,000 publications and facilitating the exchange of information internationally, WAN-IFRA provides its own educational youth engagement programs. News in Education is provided to both youth and adults to with lessons in basic reading, mathematics, politics, science and more through the use of newspapers as an educational resource. The program is mutually beneficial, giving WAN-IFRA the ability to spread the importance of press freedom and political awareness while teaching analytical and critical thinking skills. Programs like these can be part of a solution for accomplishing Education 2030, by providing NGOs or companies with the opportunity to teach the skills they are searching for and children or adults to further their education.

The delegation of WAN-IFRA proposes the following solutions: (1) the creation of a flexible international base for curriculum; (2) the development and sharing of Educational Technology.

An international standard for primary education would be beneficial in supporting schools by supplying teachers with techniques to improve student engagement as well as teach a sense of international and intercultural awareness. Such a standard could serve as a starting point that can be adapted to suit the culture and sovereignty of a nation. An international standard of important subjects and skills would foster a global connectivity and increased tolerance for diversity.

Rapid advances in Smart Technology also provide an avenue of exploration to increase access in remote areas and provide quality education at a less strenuous cost. While a new tablet or computer for every student may not be possible, new programs and purposes for 'old' technology like projectors and radios can change the way children learn. The development of educational apps allows students to access lessons and quizzes from home and caching is available in places with unreliable Internet. Technology can increase educational access by mobilizing education and facilitating learning to be more flexible.

The delegation of WAN-IFRA believes that these solutions can increase the access to and the quality of education all around the world, while simultaneously offering benefits for the future. WAN-IFRA looks forward to working alongside countries and organizations with a similar mindset in achieving universal and equal education.

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