

Secondary Schools' United Nations Symposium
UNESCO

Finland

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Finland is a country that offers extremely great opportunities for its citizens. Corruption is almost non-existent and does not impact the businesses and the policies for crime and justice are secure at the highest level. Along with Denmark and New Zealand, Finland is among the least corrupt countries in the world.¹ Over the years our country has achieved the goal of a great education, good management of finances and a healthy lifestyle for our people. Finland feels that it is our duty to help other countries achieve these same goals. Our main focus is to fight against corruption to improve education and to make sure all the areas, including refugee camps, receive a good quality of education.

Education is the best and only weapon to end the cycle of poverty, but the problem is that because of factors such as corruption and political instability, education has been negatively impacted. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) showed that the cost of corruption every year is about 5% of the global GDP that equals 2.6 trillion US dollars, 2.6 trillion dollars that could have been used to build more schools, improve the infrastructure of the old ones and give seminars and more classes for the teachers.² For this problem Finland wants to encourage all countries to establish a good and trusting transparent system to promote transparency at all levels of government. The reason Finland has almost no corruption is because of the transparency and openness of the Finnish government. Also Finland has developed a system where the government publishes how they are managing the public funds for the people to have control and access. Another solution Finland wants to provide to the committee is to create a specific committee in the United Nations to deal with corruption. This new committee would monitor the countries finances and promote transparency as well.

Besides corruption, political instability such as war, also damages and destroys children's education. In Syria for example 3,600 schools have been completely destroyed and almost 50 million children that live in conflicted areas are not provided with education.³ UNICEF along with UNHCR are working in a project called "No Lost Generation" that gives education to the children in refugee camps. The downside of this project is that it has a lot of problems like lack of teacher capacity to deal with the students, the large cost and the safe transportation of children. The goal in this conference is to encourage other United Nations agencies to support and donate to this project. And for other developed countries to donate trained teachers to help these children.

Finally we can say that the objective that unites us all in this committee is the desire and persistence that all of the countries must end the corruption and invest that money in giving children the education they really deserve. Our goal is also to provide other children with difficult situations a good quality of education to end this cycle of poverty. Finland firmly believes that with organization and collaboration these goals can be accomplished.

References

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Recently people have grown more and more concerned about the negative impact of climate changes and the damage it has done. Over the years the years UNESCO has noticed that factors like climate change and war are affecting World Heritage Sites. The problem with people nowadays is that they do not know the importance of these sites, and they do not care how they are being affected. Finland considers it a duty, as a country, to create awareness of these important national assets. Finland considers the need to unite as countries to find a way to protect and preserve these sites from climate change and war is urgent.

At this time it is crucial to create awareness of the negative impact that climate change is having, not just on society, but on the most important sites around the world. UNESCO has divided this huge problem into four categories: glaciers, marine biodiversity, terrestrial biodiversity, archaeological sites, and historic cities.¹ Climate change is increasing every second; melting glaciers are destroying some world heritage sites as high temperatures are damaging coral reefs. It is really disappointing to say that the Great Barrier Reef, the worlds largest single structure of living organisms is dead after 25 million years of life, and It is very disappointing to say that this generation killed it.²

There are many ways to confront this situation, but the best ones are to practice preventive actions, corrective actions and by sharing knowledge. Also we need constant monitoring of climate change so we can make a report and find a solution to help the sites adapt to the new changes. Besides the climate change, war is also affecting the state of the World Heritage Sites. Governments are spending large amounts of money

on military instead of protecting cities, schools and monuments. We need to build barriers or walls to increase the protection of these areas, and also to improve the selection process of these sites for upcoming incidents not to happen.

In conclusion, we have to show the people why these sites are important because in this way we can get more people interested in protecting and preserving these important areas. For many years Finland has said that it will strengthen the protection of the World Heritage Sites and that we will contribute to create awareness of these areas ³, and we hope at the end we get more people to help and cooperate with our mission.

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Finland is said to have some of the best schools and education system in the world; this is because the government spends large percentages of its revenue on education and prioritizes school infrastructure and teacher training. In many parts of the world this is not true and serious societal problems are occurring because of the lack of education in their populations, Our goal is to create solutions that will work for all countries that will allow all children receive a quality education.

121 millions of children are out of school or have dropped out, many because of conflict, monetary problems and cultural or religious aspects.¹ Despite many efforts this number has not been reduced, for that it is important that we support a new educational system that covers all the problems the majority of the countries are facing. Finland is one of the most progressive countries in the world.² This is largely because of the type of education we offer. The problem with most of the countries is that they spend less than 4% on their education, and that is why they lack a good system. Also what Finland does is we raise taxes to invest in a higher quality education that is free. It is important also that we come to an agreement to improve education especially for girls and women, because normally they are the most affected ones. In South and West Asia alone, 80% of girls are never likely to attend school. ³ No matter the culture or religion all human deserve the right to attend school.

In this committee it is our duty to find a way to agree on an education system that all countries can adapt to their own culture. The financial support to accomplish these goals must also be instated and the cooperations of all countries is also needed to accomplish all of theses goals.

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