Committee: United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)Topic: Governance and its Effects on Education, Preservation of World Heritage Sites, and Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030.

Country: Belize

Delegate: Tracy Wang

Education is the foundation to building a better life and pulling people out from the vicious cycle of poverty. Yet not everyone is receiving this basic human right. According to UIS data, nearly 58 million children were not enrolled to attend primary school in 2012, with many of them never being able to receive formal education. To address this pressing issue, 193 countries, including Belize, have agreed to 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development. Having quality education available to all would be a big step towards completing the goals. Along with advocating for formal education, UNESCO also promotes the preservation of World Heritage sites, which allows nations to build relations and encourage stability, solidarity, and above all, peace. The Government of Belize (GOB) supports the preservation of World Heritage sites- as the world’s largest barrier reef in the northern hemisphere (Belize Barrier Reserve System) straddles the coast.

The quality of governance directly correlates with the quality of education. To minimize corruption and improve education, Belize has an Office of the Ombudsman- which holds the responsibility to investigate suspected corruption and abuse of power. In 2013, a new Ombudsman was appointed and became much more active in filing annual report to the National Assembly and investigating incidents of alleged misconduct. Furthermore, Prime Minister Dean Barrow announced GOB’s commitment to sign the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). The Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), has also been committed to implement policies and systems to assist in the prevention of corruption in Belize. New standards are put in place from the Education Sector Reform Project to improve the quality and relevance of education on all levels. 1“The Government of Belize has recognized that education is the transformational vehicle for economic growth and development and this project exhibits the country;s understanding of the critical role of basic education in that process.”

The framework for Education 2030 sets Belize on a path to strengthen the management and accountability in the education system, improve access to education, improve the relevance of the curriculum, develop support systems and services, and develop continuing education for adults.

Climate change deeply impacts coastal countries such as Belize. The side effects of Climate Change has greatly damaged the Belize Barrier Reef. Belize has taken action in trying to reduce the deterioration of the Belize Barrier Reef by suspending the seismic portion of offshore oil exploration. 2"The reef is important to Belize's socio cultural and national economic well being with many local livelihoods tied to its goods and services. Safeguarding it should be a national priority. Today we want to acknowledge an important achievement and we look forward to reviewing the policy approved by the cabinet in detail.".

Belize plans to adapt a Policy on Adaptation to Global Climate Change to start more aggressively targeting the problem of climate change and take furthermore actions to preserve World Heritage Sites. The education needs to be reformed to provide students with better quality of education, more access to schools, and more relevant curriculum. Through working with other countries and organizations, Belize hopes to solve these issues with new sources of funding and cooperation of all countries to reach these goals together.

1Http://amandala.com.bz/news/author/adele/. "Education Reform Phase II at a Tune of $70 Million." *Amandala Newspaper*. N.p., 29 Jan. 2016. Web. 09 Nov. 2016.

2 "Offshore Exploration Ban in Belize." *Offshore Exploration Ban in Belize*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Nov. 2016.