**Committee:** United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

**Country:** Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is located at crossroads of southwestern Asia and southeastern Europe, and is bordered by five different countries: Russia, Armenia, Georgia, Iran, and Turkey, as well as the Caspian Sea. Azerbaijan used to be a part of the Soviet Union until 1991 and became an independent state, and then joined UNESCO on June 3rd, 1992. Azerbaijan’s economy is hugely dependant on oil and natural gas, since the land there is rich with it. There are 2 World Heritage Sites in Azerbaijan, both of which has been given “enhanced protection” by the Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in 2013. There have been conflicts between Azerbaijan and Armenia for quite some time over different regions and such, which have led to some violence at points in time.

The issues of poor education, or lack thereof, and education in refugee camps do not affect Azerbaijan too much since their education is fairly good. However, armed conflict has caused some concern with the two World Heritage Sites in Azerbaijan: the Walled City of Baku, including the Shirvanshah’s Palace and Maiden Tower, and the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape. These sites were given “enhanced protection” in 2013. Climate change is an ever present threat to World Heritage Sites as well as mankind, and a big contributor is gas and oil. Unfortunately, oil and natural gas make up around 80% of the economy. Concerning Education 2030, Azerbaijan should fund education and make sure that every child gets at least a secondary level of education, and continue with it if they want to, which is almost exactly like they have it now.

Azerbaijan’s education system has three different compulsory levels: primary education (grades 1-4), basic secondary education (5-9), and the third level covers grades 10 and 11. These three levels of education are mandatory, and have been barely affected by corruption in governance. Azerbaijan is quite corrupt in areas such as the judicial system, and the police force, but they do not have a lot of policies on the issue of corruption. Unfortunately, bribes and other types of corruption are normal in said areas.

Azerbaijan has signed certain conventions regarding cultural issues, such as: “Protocol to the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict.” The Hague, 14 May 1954. These conventions involve cultural properties, like World Heritage Sites, and the protection of said property in the event of political instability or armed conflict.

Azerbaijan believes that climate change is an ever present threat to humanity, and that it does indeed put certain World Heritage sites at risk. Unfortunately, Azerbaijan’s economy is almost entirely made up of oil, which is a contributor to climate change. If we want to slow down the rate of climate change, Azerbaijan needs some support financially if they were to cut down on oil exports and use of said oil. As for the political instability, Azerbaijan wishes to maintain peaceful relations with its surrounding countries, and end any violence against them, like it is with Armenia. In regards of education, Azerbaijan agrees with the goal of Education 2030, and has mandatory education until grade 11, at which point it is optional for more education. With the issue of corruption, Azerbaijan needs to put in place policies that deter and possibly punish corrupt behaviours in systems like the judicial system. With this in mind, Azerbaijan would need the support of other countries in order for this to happen with some effectiveness.

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