Delegation from Represented By

Venezuela Amber Briar

Position Paper for the UNESCO Committee of the Specialized Agencies, In Regards to International Education and Culture

TOPIC I: Specific Political Obstacles that Currently Impede Millions from Access to Proper Education

Venezuela is a country that understands the political obstacles that are currently preventing millions from receiving the education they deserve. Unfortunately, Venezuela is a country that has struggled and continues to struggle with corruption that has strongly impacted their school systems. Teachers have been known to give passing grades to students even when it was not earned from bribes for basic food such as milk or flour, a direct effect of the country’s poverty. (Verril,2016, para. 10). However, this unethical system has been recognized by its citizens and is pushing the country to perform better. As well as the UNICEF Violence Prevention and Response Plan, together with the agencies involved in the protection system are working to create a more peaceful and safe environment for children especially in school environments. In order to better understand how severely this issue is affecting up and coming generations, we must be able to communicate with the citizens of the country as well as foreigners to understand the country from the least biased opinion possible. That way we can support our fellow nations with the amount of aid that we feel is necessary to benefit their citizens the most. The knowledge Venezuela has learned from its citizens and working closely with UNICEF can be used to improve countries that are facing political obstacles themselves to improve the quality of living in their countries.

TOPIC 2: Protection of World Heritage Sites:

Having three World Heritage Sites located in the country, Venezuela respects and understands the importance of these sites and the benefits it provides for the country as well as individuals. Venezuela is also a country that acknowledges the damaging affects climate change has the ability to create and has already put steps in place to be informed and possibly prevent some of these damages. President Nicolas Maduro has created a ministry of Eco-socialism and Water in hope to take a more drastic approach to climate change (English, 2015, para. 1). In the past, Venezuela has already taken emergency actions to lessen the damage of their architectural and public places when the Coro World Heritage Site was among those listed as World Heritage in Danger in 2005. The country contributed 64,000,000 Bolivars which was equivalent to 30,000,000 US dollars at that time to help the cause (UNESCO World Heritage Centre, 2016, para.10). The World Heritage Convention is an important step in ensuring the protection of our World Heritage Sites. However, as climate change continues to threaten many more World Heritage Sites across the world it is important to make monitoring more careful and more often to ensure parties are following through with what they have been told. As well, countries with similar climates and geographical locations should be able to meet together and decide on a specific action plan that will help them better understand climate change in relation specifically to them. However, in order to benefit the cause, we must bring awareness to citizens in the most accessible way possible to receive the full support and commitment we need such as money and tools to ensure all sites are safely located and respected by everyone.

TOPIC 3: Education in 2030:

Education is an important step in providing children, youth and beyond with the opportunities that will benefit them in the future. As a country, Venezuela has improved its student enrolment since the previous president, President Chávez, was elected in 1999. He was successful in making education a priority and used the oil revenues to get more students enrolled in schools and even handed out free laptops to students (Verril,2016, para.2). However, the crashing economy, which has led to an unstable government, has also reversed what good has been done and days pass where school is cancelled. To add, violence that impacts students daily often makes them fear even going to school. In order for Education 2030 to be successful developed, developing nations should work together to formulate a plan where each country can contribute to the cause the best that they could considering the possible circumstances each country may be in. More so, in order for countries to work together we must be able to create a more specific goal where all countries benefit from with flexibility in order to respect the culture of their countries, such as specific holidays or learning styles.