**Model United Nations: UNESCO - Position Paper**

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Issues that will be covered in this position paper include how to enhance education within Austria and improvements that can be made when it comes to doing so. The second topic covered will be how Austria can help protect UNESCO World Heritage Sites against threats such as global warming. Finally, the last topic which will be touched upon will discuss how Austria can help achieve the Incheon Declaration of Education 2030 plan in which it will go further in depth about the improvements that can be made when it comes to education in Austria.

First off all, governance has a massive impact on how efficient the education system of a country is. As of 2016, Austria has a relatively strong national education system. Austria’s public schooling system is free and mandatory between the ages of 6 and 15. Private, bilingual schooling is also an option as German is the primary language spoken throughout Austria and many students come from abroad who cannot speak german. Austria’s successful educational system can partially be accredited to the countries low levels of corruption and high political stability. Austria is 16th least corrupt country according to a study done in 2015 by Transparency International. Specific measures have been taken to bring Austria to the point it is at now. For example, the Austrian Penal Code outlaws attempted corruption which includes all bribery, extortion, fraud, embezzlement and money laundering activities. The small amounts of corruption that do take place in Austria happen in the public procurement sector when businessmen and politicians form close relationships, these corrupted allies do not tend to have much effect on the national education system although it is a problem that needs to be solved. Corruption in Austria is also controlled and monitored by organizations such as The Federal Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAK), the UN Convention Against Corruption, the Civil Law Convention on Corruption, the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption and also the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention which all work together to minimize corruption throughout Austria.As for political stability, Austria joined the European Union in 1994 and has since been ranked the 7th most politically stable country according to data from 2014. Because Austria is so stable, the education system has been allowed to flourish. Although Austria has a very stable public school system, not the same can be said about education systems in refugee camps. Austria is currently home to thousands of refugees from Syria, Iraq, Iran and other countries where war is taking place. Traiskirchen, Austria’s largest refugee camp not far from Vienna, does not seem to be up to par with its country's national education system. Only 49% of refugees in Traiskirchen attempted to learn German through doing courses. Furthermore, a whopping 61% of the 1,100 young boys that are living in the refugee camp do not attend school, no statistic was given for that of young women. Additionally, this particular refugee camp has also been said to be a place where people are easily radicalized due to the lack of education as well as the reported terrible living conditions. There is plenty of room for improvement when it comes to the education of refugees in Austria. More attention needs to be given to refugee camps not only in Austria, but internationally as a poor quality of life seems to be a trend in refugee camps all over the world. Solutions to this problem could include providing rehabilitation programs for adult migrants to get them into the workforce and also providing mandatory schooling for adolescent migrants. Implementing these programs ensures that these migrants who have been welcomed into Austria become functioning members of society who can provide for themselves and their loved ones. Educations programs in refugee camps will be discussed in the fourth paragraph of this paper. Further improvements could include creating a committee specifically to evaluate all refugee camps worldwide. This committee should focus on identifying issues within camps, such as horrible living conditions and poor education. Once the problems are recognized the committee should take the appropriate actions to eliminate them which will hopefully create a better environment for children to learn.

Secondly, there is the issue of preserving UNESCO World Heritage Sites. There are currently nine UNESCO World Heritage sites in Austria. The level of preservation of these heritage sites is vital as many of them are snapshots of history. These sites provide a picture of what life and the landscape in Austria may have looked liked years ago. The biggest factor that threatens World Heritage sites in Austria is global warming. To begin, global warming is an eminent issue that not only affects world heritage sites in Austria and across the world, but also puts earth’s entire biosphere in harm's way. Studies show that if countries do not take extreme actions within the next three years to lower their emissions than earth's annual average temperature could rise over two degrees within the next century. In Austria, a 1.6 degree change in the annual average temperature has already been observed comparing the years 1909 and 2008. These small changes seem harmless but they can take a massive toll on the natural and historical sites. If Austria continues on this trend of warmth the Alps are at risk of melting which directly puts the Prehistoric Pile Dwellings around the Alps at risk. Although Austria is not one of the the top 50 emitters in the world, there are still precautions that can be taken to reduce the amount of pollutants produced and released within the country. Evaluating high emissions areas in Austria and establishing ways to reduce the amount of pollution is a place to start. Carrying out monthly emissions tests is a way to keep track of how successfully Austria manages to clean up their country which in turn, slows global warming and protects World Heritage sites.

Finally, Austria has devised plans to successfully carry out the Incheon Declaration for Education 2030. The goal of Education 2030 is to provide quality education to all children worldwide and to promote lifelong learning. As mentioned in the first paragraph, all public education in Austria is free therefore there is not a large percentage of Austrian children who do not go to school. On the other hand, there are plenty of children in refugee camps that do not receive any type of education. Over the years, the percentage of how much of the Austrian government's money gets spent on education has dropped from 11.8% in 1999 to a reported 10.7% in 2012. The goal of Education 2030 is to have all nations spending 15% to 20% on their education. The plan in Austria should include budgeting up to 14% of the government's money towards education with the primary focus being on education in refugee camps. Once Austria has established a stable education system for children in refugee camps, there are ways that Austria can help the global fight for education. A program for any families willing to move to Austria from countries who cannot afford to budget such a high amount of their money to education should be implemented. A campaign would be set up in developing countries with permission from their respective governments to make citizens aware of this option. Families that do decide to take this route would more than likely be living in refugee camps until they can grow their roots in their new country and become functioning members of society, therefore it is important to stabilize education and living conditions within the refugee camps first. Also, it would be a good idea to integrate children in refugee camps into the public school system in Austria to set them up for an easier life. Lastly, increasing the ages in which it is mandatory for children to go to school is another small improvement that can be made. These small changes open the opportunity for people worldwide to get education, lowering the percentage of children who don't go to school worldwide and bring the world one step closer to accomplishing the Education 2030 plan.

In conclusion, Austria already has a strong base when it comes to their education system, they are politically stable and have low corruption rate in which their success with education has stemmed from. One area for improvement is within refugee camps and how migrants are forced to live in reported terrible conditions without education. Once the issue is recognized, the Austrian government can start to fix it. By creating a more education-friendly environment in refugee camps, Austria could then help alleviate the global stress of accomplishing Education 2030 by welcoming families from developing countries in search of better education for their children. Lastly, Austria is able to push for lower emissions within their country when it comes to the issue pertaining to global warming and its effects on UNESCO World Heritage sites. The general goal for Austria is to first of all, make sure every child in the country gets the education they deserve and secondly, mitigate global warming as best they can as it is the biggest threat to their World Heritage sites.

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