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

**Representing:** Colombia

**Delegate name:** Amneet Dhaliwal

**From:** St. John’s Kilmarnock School

**Topic:** (1) Governance and its Effects on Education

The Governance in Colombia and it’s Effects on Education

The power of education is instilled and passed on to each generation solely by the control of the government. A government's ethical decisions impact how a nation is run and how they serve their society. Universal education is not made available to children all over the world due to uprising political conflicts. The African continent has a less than 50% literacy among children, in comparison to South American and European countries where literacy is ranked among the highest with 90-100%.[[1]](#footnote-0) The government’s relationship with other nations, financial stability, and political views are the basis for the lack of universal education. This topic will be further discussed to the depths of controversies between government leadership and the morals of society.

Colombia joined UNESCO in 1947, and currently the government is financing 85% of elementary education, 60% of secondary education, and 40% of higher education.[[2]](#footnote-1) It has been addressed that higher education is underfunded due to budget constraints from the government in Colombia. With Colombia’s rapid growth of population it is difficult to invest greatly in education. The Education Minister, Cecilia Maria Velez reflects on the significant growth in numbers of high school students rising from 400,000 to 700,000 in the past five years.[[3]](#footnote-2) In the past the nation has tried to create a program that prepares upcoming generations of youth to the needs that need to be fulfilled in a global economy. This program offers computer classes, entrepreneurial training, and science lab experimentations all of the skills which this nation’s youth lacked when going into the workforce. Due to Colombia’s political system not all cities in that nation have the sufficient funds to offer classes to the youth. Colombia believes that by reducing their investment in security and defence which is currently exceeding investment in education will allow them to have a more stable economy. Colombia is determined to prioritize their assets and invest in the greater good for their citizens as well as their nation.

As mentioned, Colombia is providing distinct importance to their educational system in regards to their investment in other resources. A proposal for this solution is adjusting their investments in different resources. By equally investing in different resources of this nation, Colombia will be able to develop a more globalized and knowledgeable workforce for the future. The capital used to invest in resources can be ranked in higher importance to Colombia’s economy. The majority of funds should be contributed to educaiton to have a more skilled workforce, the other 50% of funds should be distributed equally among other resources such as military and defence, healthcare, etc. Therefore, education should be their top priority as it is the result for Colombia’s poor economy.

1. "15 Facts on Education in Developing Countries." *Academic Exchange*, 6 Mar. 2014,

   academicexchange.wordpress.com/2014/03/06/15-facts-on-education-in-developing-countries/.

   Accessed 5 Nov. 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. "Colombia Education Overview." *World Education Profiles*, 6 May 2004, www.wes.org/ca/wedb/colombia/

   coedov.htm. Accessed 4 Nov. 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. "Education in Colombia." *ColombiaReports*, 2016, colombiareports.com/

   education-in-colombia-underfunded-underperforming-and-undermining-the-countrys-progress/.

   Accessed 2 Nov. 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)