Position Paper for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

The topics before UNESCO are as follows: Governance and its effect on education, preservation of world heritage sites and supporting and accomplishing education 2030.

**1.Governance and its Effect on Education**

Education serves to be the most fundamental necessity for advancing our ever-globalizing society. It is what ensures future progress and sustainability of our global society and guides generations into the necessary sectors to better our world. However, it has been an ever present issue that while education in developed countries has generally remained easily accessible and beneficial for the vast majority of their citizens, Large numbers of children remain in situations that fail to provide to them the necessary tools to function on equal ground to the rest of the world. Poverty, in many third world countries remains a never-ending cycle due to the lack of opportunities for underprivileged children and families. This is in direct relationship to the governing body of a country, and the internal struggles it may face which prevent it from addressing the issues around its educational system. In Vietnam, one of the largest issues involving its government was its previous corruption through the 1980’s until the 2000’s. Traditionally, education in Vietnam was based off a strictly state governed system. Although the system has adapted to involve more privately run schools and partially private institutions in recent years, the history of Vietnamese schooling has been of poor quality and has lead to poor production of goods and difficulties in regards to the **efficiency** and **quality** of rice farmers and their produced goods.

Currently, the United Nations Convention Against Corruption is the largest and most well renowned Anti-Corruption measure that has been passed. However, this resolution was made in 2005, thus orienting its focus on problems that occurred 11 years ago. An updated resolution that could be used as a guideline for combatting corruption in other countries is both necessary and pressing as corruption rates have been steadily increasing over time, demonstrating the ineffectiveness of the past resolutions. Vietnam adapted its own Anti-Corruption policy in 2005 to deal with the increase in high-level corruption rather than the decreasing levels of petty corruption within the country. Ranked by the World Bank, the policy has been deemed one of the best and effective policies to combat corruption in Asia despite its complex and intricate structure.

Vietnam has undergone drastic changes in the past twenty years to help re-invent its government and economy. Through the Dōi Mói reform, Vietnam has moved its economy towards a socialist-oriented market economy with private ownership in industries, commerce and agriculture resulting in a massive growth for our economy. With a 2.4% unemployment rate, Vietnam is projected to have the 21st largest economy in the world by 2025 and is currently one of the fastest growing economies in the world. However, with this being said, Vietnam understands that no one solution can solve the problems of all the worlds’ countries. That is why it is important to acknowledge that an effective policy to help aid countries in balancing the governing body of a country and its educational system has to be specific enough to tackle the issues preventing a country from bettering its education system, while remaining broad enough to allow for each government their own means to deal with the intricacies and specificities that may also deter their schooling system from reaching its full potential. The resolution that Vietnam proposes is to directly remove corruption as effectively as possible within third world and under-educated countries. The resolution would suggest that wages be increased in corrupt countries for all law enforcement as it is unlikely for any true difference to be noted within a country if those people placed in charge of upholding the law are corrupt themselves. Furthermore, using the law enforcement within a country, Vietnam suggests the use of Mr. Big operations that can be called upon by government officials to investigate previous leads that could be used to identify corrupt members within the government, removing the high-level corruption within the country. The underlying theme of this bill is the logic behind the governing officials who call upon Mr. Big operations. No corrupt official would be tempted to order any Mr. Big operation in the first place as it may draw back to leads against themselves that could expose them to the public. Therefore, the governing body that remains loyal to their country will be able to weed out any corrupt bodies or individuals. Vietnam is under the belief that this resolution will greatly improve the governance within many struggling nations and in turn, result in the improvement of the education systems they currently employ.

**2. Preservation of World Heritage Sites**

With the continual addition of heritage sites on an annual basis, it is evident that in order to help preserve these sites, there is but a few solutions that are plausible for their safe keeping. The sustainability of world heritage sites can only be preserved through means within the power of the government holding control of the region surrounding the area. Traditionally, governments have used such sites as tourist attractions and made them open to the public in an effort to make a profit off of the iconic landmarks. Vietnam is home to several heritage sites such as the Citadel of the Ho Dynasty and the My Son Sanctuary. Sites such as these are both rare and iconic in the history and values that have been used to build the country Vietnam currently employs today. Across the world, countries hold great pride in their back-stories and traditions. These values are represented through the sites and landmarks that they have created. Therefore, the preservation and security of world heritage sites is vital for any country in upholding the roots on which their nation was founded upon.

Recent sites in Iraq and Syria have been placed under the World Heritage Committees list of sites in danger. This is an example that should be followed by many other countries in order to preserve their heritage sites in states of emergency. As has been evident throughout history, heritage sites are often found to be the casualties of violent confrontations such as 9/11. Nations’ landmarks are constantly targeted in order to demonstrate a cause or purpose for terrorist organizations, violent protests and other violent actions. This has been a consistent issue over recent years and will continue to be a pressing issue until legislation is passed to help preserve these cultural landmarks.

Vietnam proposes that in order to help preserve world heritage sites, they recommend that in the event of violent conflicts among countries, legal heritage sites be marked as neutral territory in order to prevent any damage. Moreover, in the case of violent revolt or protest in a country, Vietnam recommends that governments utilize part of their law enforcement to preserve the heritage sites specifically. This will lead to greater security of the landmarks and hopefully aid in the lasting legacy of the ever-dwindling sites that cover our world, describing the history that has brought the worlds great nations to the present states they have reached today.

**3. Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030**

When looking into resolutions to further empower our world’s future, it is vital for UNESCO to evaluate not how to combat current issues, but to anticipate problems that could unveil themselves within the next twenty years, prevent them from surfacing, and creating an innovational educational period that will improve rather than recede in effect. Traditionally, UNESCO has focused its attention on current issues that present an immediate effect rather than looking into how we can empower the future. This unique initiative presents itself an interesting opportunity in the sense that one of the main goals of this delegation, to provide sustainable development through education, is fulfilled. It is a way of thinking that is necessary to employ more commonly at present. Vietnam has established an economical plan that will continue to positively reinforce itself until the year of 2025 and its educational focus slowly transitions from a strictly state governed body to that of a more socialist country, with the implementation of more and more private schools separate from the traditional state run system. However, the countries current system is undergoing a massive holistic change program of reform in order to match the cultural and global standards of necessary educational tools for Vietnamese citizens to develop. Recently, a massive number or public schools have been added in order to increase the national literacy rate, which currently stands at 94%. The number of colleges and universities within the country has grown from 178 to 299 in five years. This simple yet effective strategy allows for further education for the entire population rather than isolating a small percentage of the population.

The necessary stepping-stones have been established for further progress in providing education for children living in poverty in developing countries. The Millennium Act was essential in helping to improve the general education of under-privileged children through the increases in primary school enrollment and an increase in literacy rates in developing countries. However, this legislation failed to address the gap between children living in poor households in comparison to that of the enrollment of children in the upper class. Moreover, the law was centered on the improvement of primary education solely, therefore failing to make any attempts to delve into the improvement of secondary education. Vietnam, in their efforts to re-vitalize their educational system has made strong efforts to not only improve upon the cultural and social teaching that are employed in primary and second education, but invested most of its time towards post-secondary education for high school graduates in their country. Unfortunately, for developing countries, the prospect of increasing post-secondary schooling is an inefficient allocation of money as there is simply no logic in developing university and college level education when primary and secondary education still remains underdeveloped.

Further steps are clearly necessary to increase the reach of educational influence into the poorest households of developing countries. Furthermore, our next steps for education is to appeal to the original ideals of the Millennium Act, and apply to the grounds of secondary schooling. This is the next step for the future of education and by increasing both the primary and secondary educational systems, future generations will be given equal opportunities for success, helping us break the ever-turning cycle of poverty. To increase primary schooling, Vietnam believes a resolution suggesting that developing countries provide small sums of money as compensation for all families placing their children in primary education that are under the poverty level will drastically increase the application rates for primary education, helping to reduce the millions of kids that still lack the education. For secondary schools, Vietnam suggests an implication of renewed measures to increase the construction of secondary schools. Furthermore, a new investment in transportation for both primary and secondary students would drastically increase enrollment rates, as one of the largest problems facing poverty is the lack of means for families to take their children to school, as they may live miles away from the nearest one. Through the aforementioned suggestions, Vietnam sees a bright future for the education of children across the world and is looking forward to witnessing the changes that could come of this new and innovative directive that has been undertaken by the UNESCO delegation.