Position Paper

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Guinea

UNESCO

Introduction

The delegation of Guinea is pleased to have a seat in the UNESCO committee. We believe that our involvement in the African Union means that we can make a strong contribution to this meeting. As a nation that has had its struggles in the past, we believe that our point of view and opinions can bring interesting and new ideas to this committee. Guinea is on the path to democracy, and our unique transition position can bring valuable teachings to this gathering of delegations.

Topic 1: Governance and its affects on education

The delegation of Guinea believes that it is crucial that all have access to education, no matter what social or economic standing they may find themselves in. Guinea is a country that has had struggles in the past with education. We only have a 41.1% adult literacy rate, which means that 7,135,075 of our citizens are illiterate, and we are far behind the international standard. We have made attempts to increase this; we have introduced a law making primary education compulsory for 6 years. Despite this attempt, only 41% of our citizens follow through on this. Corruption means that we struggle to enforce this. The social corruption that is present is unacceptable. Parents want their children to work, and often girls will be married before they have the chance to complete their mandatory education. We have one of the highest child marriage rates, with 46% of our citizens married before they reach the age of 18.

After those six years, continuing education is optional. We have two universities. This means that we do not have many options to continue education. We believe that the United Nations should make attempts to open universities around the world so that all have equal access to a higher education.

Regarding measuring corruption, we believe that they best way to measure it would be to base the judgement off several factors including, but not limited to, the adherence to rules and regulations, the development of a country, and the aspects covered by the previous measuring systems. We would like to call on the United Nations to impose an international guideline on how a country should run without corruption.

Topic 2: Preservation of World Heritage Sites

Guinea only has one world heritage site: The Mount Nimbia Strict Nature Reserve, which is a natural site that was recognized in 1981. The main issue facing this reserve is the presence of poachers. While the landscape itself has been kept in decent condition, the fauna is suffering greatly. Guinea calls upon the United Nations to create international guidelines regarding punishments for defacing these sites. Additionally, as a country that struggles with management, we would like some development strategies that can help us protect this natural wonder. Unfortunately, we are not in a position where we can have environmental concerns as our top priority. With all this said, we believe that UNESCO has more pressing issues than preserving these sites.

Topic 3: Supporting and Accomplishing education 2030

The fourth United Nations Sustainable Development Goal calls for free universal education for all boys and girls, and Guinea strongly supports this. As stated in our opinions on the first topic, education is important to us. As Guinea is still not a fully developed country, we do not have many refugees. With that said, we believe that refugees should be granted the same education as the natives in whatever nation they are in. We would like for there to be international education standards, that are enforced by international law, so that everyone can achieve greatness.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the delegation of Guinea is pleased to be a part of this conference. We look forward to working and collaborating with international bodies, and we hope that this conference can bring to light the issues that are facing all countries, whether they are aware of it or not.