“Position Paper for the UNESCO”

**Committee:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organizations

**Country:** Republic of Madagascar

**Topic one: Governance and its Effect on Education**

In 2013 UNESCO conducted a study which showed that about 115 million children and adolescents can’t read or write a simple sentence. Without education, finding a well-paying job becomes a challenge and then starts the cycle of poverty, which brings up mortality rates and lowers a country's living standards. In the Republic of Madagascar, there is free primary education and 77% of the population (15 and over) are literate. As a country with good governance as well as good education, the Republic of Madagascar agrees that governance has an effect on education.

Unlike other developing countries the Republic of Madagascar has a Ministry of Education. So this means they put a flow of cash into education. The Republic of Madagascar’s GDP for education is 2.7%. The Madagascar government has begun many education reforms such as EFA. EFA hopes to achieve general primary school enrolment and to increase the quality as well as increase the efficiency of the Malagasy government. In correspondence with the Republic of Madagascar’s political crisis in 2009, EFA’s support is needed more, but with an increase in vulnerability at community levels and budget cuts in education it's been more challenging for EFA (Or other NGO’s/partners) to maintain EFA’s progress. Other organizations such as CFS wants to give children a safe place to learn and give children a voice in their rights as humans.

As you may know Kingdom of Norway Kongeriket Norge is the Republic of Madagascar’s biggest bilateral donor for education, so it only makes sense that they both signed a MOA in 2005, in correlation to UNICEF’s program about “Ensuring the right to quality primary education to all children in Madagascar” The main reason this MOA is here is to strengthen the quality of basic education in Madagascar. In 2005 the Republic of Madagascar joined the GPE. The GPE plans to provide 600 schools with feeding plans, distribute over 1.8 million kits of basic school supplies for primary school kids, train over 18,000 teachers/prisoners and more. When they do send out these supplies it will help a great deal in the republic of Madagascar.

If you look at the top ten most educated countries and the top ten countries with the best governance you’ll see that most of them correspond with each other. For example; Canada and Finland are on both top ten lists. Then if you look at worst educated lists and choose the top ten you will notice that the same familiar countries will be on both of those lists.

The Republic of Madagascar’s resolution to poor education would be to enforce that countries create a Ministry of Education. This is so they will constantly guarantee (by legal mandate) money going into education and not have it used on things like military for uneducated soldiers.

**Topic two: Preservation of World Heritage Sites**

When people get stressed or need inspiration we often look at nature or art, some of these greatest pieces are chosen to be named a WHS. Sadly with wars going on we might not get to save them despite it being illegal to destroy. War isn’t the only problem, climate change is becoming a huge problem for these heritage sites. As a country with three World Heritage sites the Republic of Madagascar agrees that WHS should be preserved. The Republic of Madagascar’s three WHS’ are The Rainforest of Atsinanana, Tsingy de Bemaraha Strict Nature Reserve and Royal Hill of Ambohimanga.

In order for a site to become a WHS it has to pass a criteria. There are ten points on the criteria and a WHS only has to have one of the ten. The reason it’s hard to become a WHS is because WHS’ can’t get attacked in war. However, there are rules; you can’t use a WHS for military effort, you can’t make WHS’ the object of retaliation. Last but not least, you can’t commit any hostility directed against a WHS. Sadly, in places such as Syria all the way to Mali countries are still attacking WHS, so it has become a hate crime and the UNESCO

One of the three WHS’ in Madagascar is the Rainforests of Atsinanana, the reason this is an WHS is because it follows two of the ten items on the criteria list. One of them is the fact that it’s an “outstanding example of representing on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals.” It shows this with it’s 60-80 million year old separation from land mass. This separation has caused most species to evolve in isolation. The forests offer protection for animals in climate change and will help them adapt. The other reason it's on the criteria is because the Rainforest of Atsinanana “contains the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.” The mega-diversity and the fact that Madagascar is globally significant for fauna, gave Madagascar this WHS.

Luckily the Republic of Madagascar isn’t at war with any other countries (but itself) so all the WHS’ have to worry about is the changing climate. For the rainforest that’s a huge concern because the hotter it gets the dryer it becomes, most rainforest inhabitants have adapted to the rain and if it were to go away the many species living in the rainforest will sadly parish. Another reason climate change is horrible for the Atsinanana Rainforest is because most of the change is coming from the illegal cutting of trees which is taking away more from the WHS. “The impact of illegal deforestation precious woods on many forest sites, including the world heritage site of Atsinanana, is devastating for biodiversity, for livelihoods and for the world, as we continue to lose the unique biodiversity of the island of Madagascar,” WWF’s Regional Representative in Madagascar O’Connor said.

The Republic of Madagascar ‘s resolution to preserving world heritage sites would be to stop illegal deforestation because that’s one of the contributors to climate change. I know the Republic of Madagascar believes this because their WWF’S Regional Representatives O’Connor said”“The situation is not just an environmental disaster, it is a pending humanitarian disaster, and we need to address this now.” Another resolution to preserving world heritage sites could be to call for international halt on illegal logging and selling of those logs, this will of course stop the illegal logging on the Atsinanana Rainforest. I know that the Republic of Madagascar would want this because Tim Badman, the head of World Heritage sites at the International Union for Conservation of Nature\* that "In adding this site to the danger list, we are calling for international action to halt illegal logging and to also ensure that no illegally logged precious woods from Madagascar enter national markets."

\*The IUCN is an organization working in the field of [nature conservation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nature_conservation) and sustainable use of [natural resources](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_resource).

**Topic three: Supporting and Accomplishing Education 2030**

UNESCO has been very busy doing many things since they’ve been established in 1945, they’ve done peace promotions, poverty eradications, sustainable development and way more. Education 2030 is the new 15 year plan after the 2000 - 2015 year plan. However, Education 2030 is in the future and as we all know the future is forever changing. How are we supposed to know as delegates that our countries will be able to follow what Education 2030 wants us to do in 15 years because the Republic of Madagascar has already had a coup d’etat so the government is really unpredictable and unstable. The Republic of Madagascar sadly won’t be able to achieve Education 2030. As a country with no free secondary schooling the Republic of Madagascar believes that Education 2030 will not be accomplished in all countries & they won’t be able to support.

Although the Republic of Madagascar has gotten free primary education it hasn’t gotten free secondary education. Also the republic of education doesn't have enough money to support secondary schooling. Although having a good governance they don’t have the best. They have only 2.7 GDP in education which also goes to teaching the teachers and any other worker, colleges (to operate), secondary schools (to operate), books and textbooks, etc. so I don’t think Madagascar’s budget could hold secondary schools being free.

Madagascar is receiving a lot of money from Norway for education this will help it stay with free primary education. They may be getting this money but most of it’s going to primary and not secondary. In fact, their Memorandum of Agreement is only working for better primary education. In order for Education 2030 to be accomplished universal free secondary schooling and primary schooling needs to happen. That is why the Republic of Madagascar would like to stress the fact that in Madagascar there is no free secondary education. To further help the Republic of Madagascar’s secondary school we have to realize that adolescents are often overlooked and are not taught proper skills such as organization or even basic safe sex which has caused STI’s in Madagascar. (HIV is only 1% in Madagascar because other STI’s take place).