15th Session

Agenda item: C: Education for Victims of Conflict

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,

Noting that United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported in 2017, that 27 million children of primary and lower secondary school age are out of school in 24 conflict-affected Member States, and conflict affects children's access to education in myriad ways like targeted attacks and areas occupied by people who have been forced to flee their homes,

Recalling the fact that children who lack education opportunities because of conflict, UNICEF said that there are 2.44 billion children who could not gain enough education in the world in 2021,

Referring that in 2021, Security Council Resolution 2601, which won the unanimous support of the 15-member council, strongly condemns all violations of applicable international law involving the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict as well as their re-recruitment, killing, and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and abductions to stop the increase of more victims of conflict,

Deeply concerned that more than half of the world's 14.8 million school-aged refugee children are currently missing out on formal education, the number of which has jumped nearly 50% from 10 million a year ago, risking their future prosperity and the attainment of global development goals according to the report of UNHCR in 2023,

Remembering as of the end of 2023, the fact that UNHCR had about 117.4 million people displaced from their hometowns with about 40 percent of those displaced being children under the age of 18, and that school closures are having a negative impact on children's learning, shows the dire reality that learning losses are significant and that the most marginalized children and youth are disproportionately affected,

Being aware that according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) report from April 20th, 2023, during COVID-19, almost 1.6 billion students faced issues with the lack of access to technological tools, internet connectivity, proper spaces, and/or parental accompaniment which led to mental and physical health issues of the students and teachers,

Noting that as of 2024, UNESCO reported that 122 million girls and 128 million boys are out of school, and women still account for almost two-thirds of all adults unable to read in the world, there still exists a gender gap between the sexes and that education is still sorely lacking,

Realizing that 250,000 children are used in armed conflicts as of 2024, according to Theirworld, and UNICEF indicates the difficulties of reintegration into society for children who are used to conflict zones,

Deeply alarmed, according to the UNHCR, in 2024, more than 110 million people will be forced from their homes due to continued conflict and displaced people around the world, therefore they face difficulties in getting opportunities for education,

Realizing that 468 million children globally are living with the effects of war and conflict, and it is easy to be affected by psychological trauma, depression, and Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) which can hinder their ability to learn and participate in educational activities,

Remembering the UNICEF's "Emergency Education" program that supports children in crisis areas by providing temporary learning school kits and psychosocial support, which aims at maintaining educational continuity, increasing attendance at schools, and supporting children's well-being,

Recalling the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which is making a roadmap to improve the educational situation in the CARICOM Human Resource Development 2030 Strategy adopted in 2017,

1. *Requests* UNESCO to pursue further cooperation with the World Bank Group, which manages institutions working for sustainable solutions to create a world free of poverty on a livable planet to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity for all of its 189 Member States, to give subsidies for children who were affected by armed conflict to access education based on Security Council Resolution 2601;

2. *Suggests* all able Member States use digital devices and internet accessibility as a way of strengthening online capacities of education for victims of conflict so that students can learn wherever and whenever without attending school, in cooperation with Official Development Assistance (ODA) to provide funds for educational supplies to improve the quality of education;

3. *Encourages* UNESCO to further cooperate with the UNHCR and promote the action to improve access to education for all people including refugees by setting clear objectives such as literacy rate and enrollment rate to secondary school which will indicate how far they are from the Sustainable Development Goals 4.1 (SDGs 4.1), ensuring that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes by 2030;

4. *Requests* UNICEF to supply refugee children with sufficient education by:

    a. Working to support all able Member States to:

        i. Set minimum standards for school support in the political and educational conferences of each Member State;

        ii. Provide children with the necessary supplies for education, technical devices, and funds based on these standards;

        iii. Accept refugees and supply them with educational resources and funds to other Member States that lack them to any extent possible;

    b. Supporting companies that work with international organizations and Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) to promote education that supports projects by enhancing the availability of educational resources;

    c. Sending supplies to areas around conflict zones and accepting refugee teachers who can speak the languages of those places;

5. *Requests* UNESCO make a new framework to promote holistic accelerated basic educational studying programs, for each Member State, and strongly cooperate with the International Network Education in Emergencies;

6. *Recommends* UNESCO organize international peace education communities to interact information globally which collect data about education for victims of conflict by:

    a. Targeting states in conflict or states at risk of conflict;

    b. Supporting victims of conflict, who belong to the community, enabling them the same rights as ordinary students;

7. *Recommends* all Member States should create a credit system in cooperation with the World Bank Group which aims to assure access to education regardless of the economic situation;

8. *Encourages* all Member States to aid the psychological healing of minds of victims of conflict and reintegrate them into their societies by:

    a. Cooperating with organizations such as UNICEF and The War Child to make comfortable environments for children in conflict zones;

    b. Making guidelines on how to implement training programs that includes sports, music, and cultural activities;

    c. Recommending UNICEF make a mental health program for students who have psychological problems;

    d. Sending professional counselors and doctors to conflict zones regularly and checking their mental health conditions;

9. *Requires* creating an opportunity to obtain educational information especially focusing on child victims of conflict from other Member States by:

    a. Holding regional conferences for sharing information and considering how to improve this situation for child victims of conflict;

    b. Organizing conferences and inviting ministries of education that aim to:

        i. Acquire support from other member states;

        ii. Distribute successful ways to improve the lives of children who need UNESCO's help;

10. *Suggests* UNESCO cooperate with UNHCR to build refugee learning centers in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in each Member State in safe areas and reduce the education gap between refugees and formal students by:

a. Identifying the number of School-age Refugees through UNHCR and the Ministry of Education to secure finance for building refugee learning centers;

b. Working with UNESCO and ministries of education to create Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education systems and prepare education supplies and materials;

11. *Recommends* UNESCO to collaborate with UNICEF to expand programs like UNICEF's "Emergency Education," aiming to provide immediate learning environments, psychosocial support, and educational materials to improve school attendance by:

a. Having them work together to establish clear guidelines for improving school enrollment rates;

b. Configuring STEM content of secure online education and temporary learning centers in conflict zones which are provided with the cooperation from Member States with sufficient education systems materials;

12. *Requests* for all Member States to promote refugee children to attend school and receive a proper education by:

a. Providing information worldwide about the plight of refugee children and raising money for fees to create schools for refugees through these donations;

b. Cooperating with UNHCR to provide safe and quality educational opportunities in refugee camps;

13. *Suggests* all Member States make a roadmap such as that of CARICOM in each Member State to make this process transparent and promote understanding of what goals need to be achieved to provide equal education for all people including refugees around the world.