POSITION PAPER

Committee: UNICEF

Agenda item:Practicing freedom of religion, with a special emphasis on forcible imposition of religion on young children.

Country: Nigeria

Our country Nigeria was one of the very first African countries where UNICEF established a

programme of cooperation. Today we are still working with UNICEF in partnership with in

many topics, including children's rights. Even so educational institutions are getting

targetted by gunmen, forcing school closures in the north. At least 855 students were

abducted for ransom in seven states in 10 separate attacks. In Nigeria, religion freedom is guaranteed by the government, and we generally abide by this right as long as people uphold social harmony, public order, and the country's unity. We attach great importance to freedom of religion as our people mainly believe in two different religions which are Islam and Christianity. However there are religious armed groups called Boko Haram and the Islamir State of West Africa Province (SWAP) that ambush, injure and kill many members of Nigeria's security forces and this has some bad effects on our education system.

Due to the fact that our country has been under the colony of European states for a long time, we are experiencing a lack of financial support, and we expect support from the relevant countries so that we can allocate more budget to defend our country in order to create a safe and respectful school environment for people of all religions.