**Committee : UNESCO-1**

**Country : South Africa**

**Agenda Item : Barriers to Education in Conflict-Affected Countries.**

As a great vehicle, only education can bring equality of opportunity to the world. To emphasis the importance of it, as Nelson Mandela said “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” But today when we look at the situation overall the world, because of conflicts and wars thousand of hundereds children can not have education opportunity

If we focus on what kind of barriers exist against education in Conflict-Affected countries, we can count very serious effects. For some examples ;***No classroom*** ; destruction and damage to schools and educational infrastructure maket his happen. For examle as a result of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 50% of its schools required reconstruction and rehabilitation. ***Cuts of spending on education*;** spending on education is significantly lower and that spending on defence is significantly higher if there has been a recent conflict. ***Drastic loss of skills*;** Conflict situations imply a serious alteration in the development of students' skills, like linguistic skills and cognitive development. ***Having no teacher, or having an untrained teacher*;** The absence of qualified teaching staff may give rise to difficulties in correctly implementing the curriculum and mitigating the problems that conflicts can bring into the classroom. ***Abandoning Education ;*** At times where there is no conflict, in general children grow and learn while they mix with their same age group and the environment around them. During conflict, however, the possibility of positive interaction between the child and the social environment is reduced.

***Behavioural problems in and out of school ;*** Another of the main consequences which derive from armed conflicts are the psychological and mental disorders such as distraction, hostility, emotional instability, sorrow, withdrawal, difficulty sleeping, nightmares, nervousness and so on.

As we mentioned above how the different consequences suffered by children living in countries where armed conflict is a part of daily life and strongly restrict the possibilities of education access. A commitment should be made to ensure that education offers a sense of normality to daily life, something which is necessary for the emotional stability of children, on condition that political interests are not brought into play, and the children's rights are respected.

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