 

**Committee : UNESCO**

**Country : Portugal**

**Agenda Item : Climate change education, training and public awareness.**

**Portugal, officially the Portuguese Republic ;** Portugal is one of the oldest countries in Europe located on the Iberian Peninsula, in southwestern Europe, and whose territory also includes the Atlantic archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira. Capital is Lisbon. According to the 2021 census, the population was 10,417,221. The currency unit of Portugal is the euro and Portuguese is the official language.

For sure, there is no doubt that only education can bring an opportunity to change our future on the world. When we glance at what kind of barriers exist against education, we can last the list such as conflicts, wars, budget cuts…and so on. Into this list we can add one of the greatest threats of our time, it is “Climate Change”. Floods, droughts, heatwaves, extreme storms and wildfires are going from bad to worse. Immediately we need to train our community to take measures lessening its effects. If we want a future on this planet a training campaign is inevitable. According to a report conducted by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), urgent action is needed to avoid the catastrophic effects of global warming due to climate change. Climate change could be irreversible by 2030. The ambition of emissions reduction pledges for 2030 needs to be seven times higher to be in line with the 1.5 °C goal of the Paris Agreement. Our target should be take necessary steps to educate, to train our new generation about this issue while trying to catch the attention of our public too. Of course a proper curriculum about climate change education in the schools can save our future if we implement as soon as possible.

Starting the climate change education at preschool level will bring more gain for the future. For these age of children more simple and understandable lesson subjects could be selected, such as saving the water games, protecting the forest and keep the environment clean activities. For the higher level classes at the elementary and middle schools, the educations can include more basic science behind climate changes. In the schools some laboratories could be established to support these trainings. So that, the students can try and see the main consequences of climate change to water, energy, environment, soil and our health. When we come to high school level, climate change education could include some hands-on activities to be more productive. For example, to develop some softwares or hardwares, establish some clubs/organizations or working groups at school wide.

At the current situation, to create an public awareness for the climate change is really important step. Because climate change is occuring without stopping. As we know that it is hard to train or change the adults’ habits. For that reason using the internet and social media platforms are the most effective tools of our time. Some applications on smart phones also usefull to reach public too. Of course this education campaign not only support by local govermnets but also international steps should be taken with based on regulations.

Because the climate change has global effect not local one. International platforms should be created to follow the even small changes to inform the authorities.

So that the education system can update their syllabuses. Each government should make short media products and broadcast them iteratively on TVs, cell phones, bus stops, metro stations…etc. to trigger an public awareness.

An International climate change tracking board should consist of universities and higher education institutions to follow the regulations. So that, they can affect their governments and politicians to obey the international agreements.

As we mentioned above what kind of steps we should take in our education systems for the climate change will determine our future life on the earth. A commitment should be made to ensure this in international community too. Otherwise we can not keep our world habitable with un-educated people against this coming problem. It is time to train our community to spark an awareness for unbearable consequences of climate changes.