**POSITION PAPER**

**Country:** Austria

**Committee:** UNESCO

**Topic**: Barriers to Education in Conflict-Affected Countries

Austria, which has a deep-rooted history on the world stage, argues that education and training are a right for everyone. It acts with the awareness that a modern, rational and free future passes through a healthy educational infrastructure. In the developing and globalizing world, especially after the devastating effects of the 2nd World War, the United Nations was established in order not to experience the same suffering again and to make peace and tranquillity prevail in our world; unfortunately, a completely conflict-free environment could not be achieved. While supporting the constructive role of the UN against conflicts, the sanctions decisions taken against the aggressor countries sometimes deviate from their purpose and cause the aggressor country's education system to weaken as a result of trade embargoes. It causes the civilian population, especially children, to grow up without basic knowledge, skills and etiquette for both themselves and the society they live in. We believe that this deprivation affects not only these countries but also our entire world.

According to the data obtained from the studies, although the dropout rate is high in conflict countries, children are trained as soldiers. Even in some regions, modern education is rejected by the authorities for different reasons and girls are prevented from receiving education. Recently, Nigeria (the Boko Haram terrorist organization) and the Taliban in Afghanistan can be given as examples.

For these reasons; The United Nations should take a greater role in countries where there is conflict, create safe zones, and act with non-governmental organizations and world organizations especially for children's access to basic education. We support that the international community's response to punishing countries in conflict should be protective without destroying the educational infrastructure in that country. In places where there is conflict, adults besides children; In other words, we demand that face-to-face and online training opportunities be provided with the support of the educational institutions of the member countries for the young people whose specialization education is disrupted and for the educators who need to improve themselves.