**Country:** Serbia

**Committee:** UNESCO

**Agenda Topic:** Barriers to education in conflict-affected countries.

Serbia recognises that there are many barriers to education in conflict-affected countries. If the children of a nation do not have access to education then economic growth is undermined and the progress of the nation is severely affected. We have experienced conflict in our country and understand the problems that this brings with regard to access to education. Since the early 1990s our country has been involved in conflict and war and we continue to feel the effects of this situation even now. However, in recent years we have made great improvements to our education institutes with the help of the United Nations (UN) and related agencies. In the last five years enrollment in basic education is higher than 95 percent and the quality of education in Serbia has improved considerably over time. The UN has been present in the Republic of Serbia (and the former Yugoslavia) since the beginning of the crisis in the Region in the early nineties. The UN Country Team (UNCT) has been working with the Government of the Republic of Serbia since early 2000s.

Serbia signed the Safe Schools Declaration (SSD) in July 2017 and has been working towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out by the UN and its partners. In Serbia, nineteen agencies, funds and programmes work together through the implementation of the Development Partnership Framework (DPF) 2016-2020 to support country’s progress in advancing national development priorities fully aligned with the Agenda 2030 and with the EU reform processes. The SDGs are a call to action to all nations to work together and build a better future for all children in the global community. Education is an important factor in the goals and Sebia is committed to working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to achieve a successful outcome.

It is clear that Serbia supports actions to ensure that all children in all nations in the world have equal opportunities to education. The future prosperity of the global population is dependent upon education because it offers upward socioeconomic mobility and progress within all borders and beyond.