**Country:** Egypt

**Committee:** UNESCO

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

Conflict-affected countries include over 20% of all children of primary school age, but account for around half of all out-of-school children of primary school age (UNESCO, 2011, 2013). Conflict affects children in many ways because their exposure to violence impacts on their future opportunities and well-being. Egypt has been affected by conflict and attacks on our higher education instututes and is regarded as a conflict-affected country.

Currently, there are more than 75 million 3-to-18-year-olds living in 35 crisis-affected countries and they are in urgent need of educational support. Egypt recognises that there is need for investment in teacher-training efforts and the development and delivery of high-quality learning materials, while also building community support for education. Education serves as the foundation for the development of a peaceful society – a secondary enrollment rate 10% higher than average reduces the risk of war by 3%. Children in conflict-affected countries.

Egypt advocates the need for reform and restructuring of the education systems in countries who have experienced the effects of armed conflict and war. With more than 21 million students, Egypt is home to the largest school system in the Middle East and has achieved near-universal access to primary education as well as gender parity in both enrollment and completion rates. However, we understand that in conflict-affected countries it is not possible to offer sustained and effective education to children and young adults. For children who do attend school, conflict can have a negative effect on educational attainment, increasing drop- out and reducing educational survival rates due to displacement, military recruitment or economic hardship.

We are committed to working with all member states to try and find realistic and workable solutions to the educational problems created by conflict. There is a need for transparency at all levels to allow UNESCO and all other relevant agencies to implement the necessary changes that will secure a more successful future for all children around the world who have no Access to the education they deserve.