**Country:** Spain

**Committee:** UNESCO

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

Spain has a transparency policy when it come to issues that concern the global community. This transparency policy is the materialization of the strong commitment of the United Nations Association of Spain with the integrity and transparency of its activity. All the people involved with it, especially the Board, are committed to fulfill it and to transmit it among their groups of interest. Barriers to education in conflict-affected countries is high on the political agenda across the globe and we have been doing our part to support their plight. Conflict and war have a negative impact on the fundamental right of children to be educated. The experience of millions of children across the world is devastating when it comes to access to education during or after armed conflict. Damage to the infrastructure and the threat of violence have a profound affect on nations and the education of their children. Cuts in the educational budgets and the fear of returning to educational institutes create barriers that are difficult to overcome.

Spain signed the Safe Schools Declaration in May, 2015 and pledged to protect students, teachers, schools and universities from the worst effects of armed conflict and war. On the 25th-27th October 2021, the Government of Nigeria, together with the Governments of Argentina, Norway, and Spain, as well as the African Union Commission and the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack, hosted the 4th International Conference on the Safe Schools Declaration in Abuja, Nigeria. The protection of education during armed conflict, which the Safe Schools Declaration seeks to promote, has particular links with the broader framework on the protection of children in armed conflict put in place by the United Nations. The mission of the declaration includes: ensuring the continuation of education during armed conflicts; supporting the efforts of the UN Security Council on Children in Armed Conflicts; implementing conflict-sensitive approaches to education and investigating and prosecuting allegations or violations.

Spain is also working with the UN and its agencies on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which include the right to education for every child. We must come together for the common goal of safeguarding the education of children in countries who are experiencing extensive and ongoing conflict.