***COMMITTEE:*** UNDP

***COUNTRY:*** GERMANY

***Agenda Item I:*** Quality Education Interruptions Due to Territorial Disputes in the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Region

***Agenda Item II:*** Development of Nuclear Energy and Its Effects on Environmental Matters

The Federal Republic of Germany acknowledges the significance of the issue Quality Education Interruptions Due to Territorial Disputes in the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Region and Development of Nuclear Energy and Its Effects on Environmental Matters. Any individuals' exclusion from schooling are related to a wide variety of interrelated development steps. In the region which covers 20 countries, domination of political instability and conflict has been valid for years. Such serious problems have been forcing the individuals living in the MENA region to flee their home, which automatically causes massive displacements for children to access education. Every individual living in the world has the right to have qualified education. In the matter of nuclear energy, nuclear energy is a source of energy originating from the nucleus of an atom in order to generate electrical energy. Using nuclear energy has its advantages like small carbon footprint, safety and reliability, combating catastrophic effects of climate change, etc. Nevertheless, it is questionable due to non-renewability, high cost, and most importantly radioactive waste polluting the environment. Having sustainable and innovative solutions upon this issues is crucial.

The Republic of Germany firmly believes providing proper education especially for the children and other individuals who are affected from the detrimental effect of conflicts is such a milestone due to passage of cultural accumulation of knowledge to next generations. Germany has an interest in increasing harmonization of European foreign and security policy and, for this reason alone, it advocates a strengthening of the role and profile of the EU in the Middle East peace process. In 2020, under the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development’s action plan entitled Agents of Change – Children’s and Youth Rights in German Development Cooperation Activities in interval of 2017 to 2019 covered by the action plan, 367 programmes in the realm of intergovernmental development cooperation, 228 projects run by central church bodies and welfare institutions, 447 projects run by private institutions and 65 projects run by Länder and local authorities helped strengthen children’s and young people’s rights across the world. The projects and programmes are focused on Africa and the MENA countries and on the fields of (basic) education and vocational training. In addition, additional regions are identified to develop cooperation to protect children from violence in conflict zones.

Germany also would like to emphasize the importance of the usage of nuclear energy and its effect on environmental matters. Atomic Energy Law, which was amended in 2011 in Germany, stated to gradually stop electricity production from nuclear plants. There were 4 different reasons behind why Germany stopped generating nuclear energy, all 4 are related to environmental matters directly or indirectly. These 4 reasons were: uranium mining, the risk when operating nuclear power plants, warehouse problems, and the use of waste products from civilian use in nuclear weapons. A study commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Climate Protection, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Technology and Innovation, which provides an objective assessment of nuclear energy in connection with the criteria of the Taxonomy Regulation, announced that nuclear energy is not ecologically sustainable in any case. They also stressed the disadvantages like the risks of nuclear accidents can not be ignored, the climate change crisis has increased the cost of nuclear energy, its production has caused considerable water use, and the resulting radioactive waste can only be stored temporarily, and these wastes pose a major risk. The perspective of Germany on the matter of generating nuclear energy is quite obvious.

Finally possible solutions to those quite crucial problems can be: making infrastructure stronger in order to make education centers more resilient to disruptions due to territorial disputes, developing distance learning centers and programmes suffering from such problems, funded by developed countries, providing psychosocial help for students or teachers for them to cope up with trauma caused by territorial disputes and help them get qualified and more beneficial education. There can also be solutions like: advanced technologies to provide safer access to nuclear energy, managing nuclear waste, integration of renewable energy sources in favor of the environment, and safety regulations.

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