Conference Name: Hacettepe Model United Nations Conference

Committee: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Agenda Item: 1-Quality Education Interruptions Due to Territorial Disputes in the

Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) Region

2-Development of Nuclear Energy and Its Effects on Environmental Matters

Country: Ukraine

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 **INTRODUCTION TO TOPIC A.**

The MENA region continues to witness several conflicts and crises. One in every five children

in MENA is not in school, and of these out-of-school children, an estimated number of over 3 million should have been in school if the crises never happened. By the end of 2017, the armed conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen brought back the number of regional out-of-school children to its 2007 level of over 14.3 million.

Crises increase the vulnerability of children and youth, with girls often more at risk of gender-based violence and child marriage, and boys being forced into child labour or recruitment in armed forces by parties to the conflict.Adolescent girls are 1.5 times more likely to be out of school in lower secondary education in the region and one in five girls in the region are married before the age of 18. In international assessments of learning outcomes, such as PIRLS and TIMSS, most participating countries from the MENA region perform at the bottom.

  **INTRODUCTION TO TOPIC B.**

Nuclear energy is a form of energy released from the nucleus, the core of atoms, made up of protons and neutrons. This source of energy can be produced in two ways: fission – when nuclei of atoms split into several parts – or fusion – when nuclei fuse together.

​​The operation of nuclear power plants produces waste with varying levels of radioactivity. These are managed differently depending on their level of radioactivity and purpose. Nuclear power is the second largest source of clean energy after hydropower. The energy to mine and refine the uranium that fuels nuclear power and manufacture the concrete and metal to build nuclear power plants is usually supplied by fossil fuels, resulting in CO2 emissions; however, nuclear plants do not emit any CO2 or air pollution as they operate. And despite their fossil fuel consumption, their carbon footprints are almost as low as those of renewable energy. One study calculated that a kilowatt hour of nuclear-generated electricity has a carbon footprint of 4 grams of CO2 equivalent, compared to 4 grams for wind and 6 grams for solar energy — versus 109 grams for coal, even with carbon capture and storage.

In the last 50 years, nuclear energy has precluded the creation of 60 gigatons of carbon dioxide, according to the International Energy Agency. Without nuclear energy, the power it generated would have been supplied by fossil fuels, which would have increased carbon emissions and resulted in air pollution that could have caused millions more deaths each year.

 **PAST ACTIONS ON AGENDA ITEM A.**

The MENA region has made significant strides in the education sector, having started in the 1960s and 1970s from very low levels of human capital accumulation. However, it has not capitalized fully on past investments in education, let alone developed education systems capable of meeting new challenges. The education systems did not produce what the markets needed, and the markets were not sufficiently developed to absorb the educated labor force into the most efficient uses.

 **PAST ACTIONS ON AGENDA ITEM B**

The UN and the nuclear age were born almost simultaneously. The horror of the Second World War, culminating in the nuclear blasts at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, brought home the need to address the nuclear issue. By its first resolution, the General Assembly established the UN Atomic Energy Commission to deal with the problems raised by the discovery of atomic energy. And a landmark address by United States President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1953, “Atoms for Peace”, led to the establishment in 1957 of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Non-Proliferation Treaties is a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament. The Treaty represents the only binding commitment in a multilateral treaty to the goal of disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States. Opened for signature in 1968, the Treaty entered into force in 1970. On 11 May 1995, the Treaty was extended indefinitely. A total of 191 States have joined the Treaty, including the five nuclear-weapon States. More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the Treaty’s significance.

 **COUNTRY’S POLICY ON AGENDA ITEM A.**

As Ukraine, despite facing a military occupation, we are deeply concerned about the issues regarding the quality education interruptions caused by territorial disputes in the Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) region. Our country has also struggled with access to quality education and is still struggling. We recognize how significant education is as we progress in our respective societies worldwide. We align ourselves with Western values and advocate for a stable region that has high-quality education, free of influence from conflicts. While we are struggling with our challenges, we aim to support the continuity of education in areas of territorial stabilities.

 **COUNTRY’S POLICY ON AGENDA ITEM B.**

We as Ukraine, rely to a large extent on nuclear power. The largest nuclear power plant in Europe, the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, is located in Ukraine. Our power sector is the twelfth-largest in the world in terms of installed capacity, with 54 gigawatts (GW). Renewable energy still plays a very modest role in electrical output; in 2005 energy production was met by the following sources: nuclear (47%), thermal (45%), hydroelectric and other (8%).

As stated in the paragraph above, our country greatly relies on nuclear energy in order to produce our energy. While we recognize how dangerous nuclear energy can be, if not handled cautiously, we still highly regard it as a great way to produce energy with fewer emissions. Therefore we support the use and increase of nuclear plants.

 **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR TOPIC A.**

The root causes of the conflicts in the MENA region have some varying reasons, including but not limited to: Religious and ethnic tensions, historical territorial disputes, economic instability and the influence of external forces. When trying to stabilize the region and combatting the effects of these conflicts, we have to keep in mind the context of these issues and act accordingly. We have to uphold the international law and religious freedoms of people when debating the various possible solutions. In our efforts to improve the quality of education, we also have to ensure equality for men, women and children as everyone has an equal right to education. It is also a need to internationally collaborate in our efforts to resolve these issues, rather than acting on our respective incentives. In our collaboration, we must also work with other respective UN Bodies to ensure a better uninterrupted education in the area. Some examples for these bodies and possible collaboration points can be: UNICEF on creating extensive funds, UNESCO for diverse and inclusive education, UN WOMEN for the upholding and promoting of gender equality.

 **POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS FOR TOPIC B.**

Investments by national governments and international organizations are crucial when it comes to nuclear energy. With these investments more research can be conducted which would help us further understand and resolve the issues surrounding nuclear energy. One of the biggest problems about nuclear energy is that it is quite dangerous, but with further research and investment the risks could be minimized. With all things said, nuclear energy is a good thing considering the environment. Therefore we should steadily increase our use of nuclear energy, especially as a substitute for fossil fuels.

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