Country: Syrian Arab Republic

Committee: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Agenda Items: 1. Quality Education Interruptions Due to Territorial Disputes in the Middle Eastern and Northern African (MENA) Region.  
 2. Development of Nuclear Energy and Its Effects on Environmental Matters

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Syria, officially the Syrian Arab Republic is a country in Western Asia, bordering Lebanon to the southwest, the Mediterranean Sea to the west, Türkiye to the north, Iraq to the east, Jordan to the south and Israel to the southeast. A country of fertile plains, high mountains and deserts, Syria is a home to diverse ethnic and religious groups, including Syrian Arabs, Greeks, Armenians, Assyrians, Kurds, Circassians, Mandeans and Turkmens. Religious groups include Sunnis, Christians, Alawites, Druze, Isma’ilis, Mandeans, Shiites, Salafis, Yazidis and Jews with Sunnis making up the largest religious group in Syria. The current unemployment rate is at a whopping 9.61% and the education rate at a record low of compared to the 99.195% in 2005. As of 2024, Syria has a population of 24 million.

Since the beginning of the civil war in 2012, education has become one of the main drawbacks concerning Syria. Syrian rebels and terrorist groups (such as ISIS, YPG etc.) have conducted an enormous destruction to our country, resulting in a constrained lack of education. These groups not only cause trouble for Syria, but also use schools for military purposes, which is not acceptable. In its February 2013 report, the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria stated, “anti-governmental armed groups frequently use schools as barracks or offices. These occupations are not always justified by military necessities, and have spread the belief that schools are not safe.” We encourage all delegates and the UN to support us in finding sources and services to help compensate for our lack of education.

The development of nuclear energy in Syria is an issue just as serious as the afore mentioned problem that affect many aspects of our country. Syria joined the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1969. In 2007, Syria announced plans to construct a nuclear research reactor with assistance from Russia. The project aimed to diversify the country’s energy sources and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. However, in 2007, an airstrike targeted and destroyed a facility in Syria, known as the Al Kibar reactor. In the aftermath, Syria’s nuclear energy plans faced setbacks. Despite these challenges, Syria continued to express interest in nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Nonetheless, the country’s focus on nuclear development has been overshadowed by the ongoing civil war and instability. Given the country’s fragile political situation and limited resources, ensuring the safe and responsible use of nuclear technology would be paramount to mitigate environmental risks and safeguard public health.

The once prosperous and peaceful nation of the Syrian Arab Republic that was filled to the brim with natural beauties and placed entire cities into the World Cultural Heritage List is now bedridden and falling apart. The immense growth of terror organizations throughout the northeastern areas of our country is one the many dilemmas that Syria is facing. The Syrian government is determined to put everything back on track, taking into consideration every sacrifice except for the security and safety of our own people. Syria is looking forward to finding allies to side with to achieve what is more important: a peaceful and free Syria, and a world where no other country should deal with such problems ever again.

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