



Delegation

Commonwealth of Australia, GA3

Name of Student

Student, School

Position Paper for the Third Committee of the General Assembly Plenary

The issues before the Third Committee of the General Assembly Plenary 20XX are: Protecting world heritage sites in the areas of armed conflict; The repatriation of returning refugees into their native society; The perpetual eradication of the Ebola pandemic. Fully aware of the international and historical importance of protecting world heritage sites as well as tormented refugees and of acting conjointly upon the global threat of the Ebola pandemic, the Commonwealth of Australia will negotiate peacefully and decidedly.

I. Protecting world heritage sites in areas of armed conflict

The Commonwealth of Australia acknowledges with deep concern the increased threats and destruction of world heritage sites in the areas of armed conflict; most recent acts of devastation committed by the radical organisation of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIL) in the state of Iraq. By being a member state of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), Australia is appalled and in deep sorrow about the irreversibly lost and ruined cultural monuments along with those being threatened.

In deep-seated sorrow and concern towards the further destruction of irretrievable cultural treasure, the Commonwealth of Australia is recalling the *UNESCO Declaration concerning the Intentional Destruction of Cultural Heritage*, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in 2003, which met in Paris at its thirty-second session. Highlighting and enforcing the Segment III – “Measures to combat intentional destruction of cultural heritage”, as well as the Segment V – “Protection of cultural heritage in the event of armed conflict, including the case of occupation” in this Declaration particularly. Another organisation supporting the protection of and care for threatened world heritage sites in areas of armed conflict is Blue Shield Australia (BSA), which is a member of both the Association of National Committees of the Blue Shield (ANCBS) and the UN-founded International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS).

Seeing that the topic of protecting world heritage sites brings up far more deep-reaching issues caused by its position in an area of armed conflict, taking action on the matter cannot be easily done nor can a general and universal solution for all threatened world heritage sites be found.

The first step in protecting such a site is easily presented: eliminating the threat itself. Military activity, as for example in the case of ISIL, has, to the current moment, not helped yet nor has the threat been eliminated. A step however that the Commonwealth of Australia is capable of doing so and would also suggest it to the owners and hosts of world heritage sites is to carry portable world heritage sites or exhibits, which are currently placed in museums, to other countries in order to secure those. The Commonwealth of Australia would gladly be a host to such international cultural treasures. However, the Commonwealth of Australia realises that many world heritage sites are monuments, unable to be transported to another place, such as



churches or ruins. Therefore, the Commonwealth of Australia urges the countries dealing with armed conflict and accommodating world heritage sites, as well as other UN member states, to provide military protection to these world heritage sites at every moment. Australia will be willing to provide military aid in such cases on behalf of the UNESCO.

II. The repatriation of returning refugees into their native society

As the Commonwealth of Australia is one of many developed countries receiving and accepting refugees in search of asylum for safety and stability, it is also struggling with the establishment of a permanent and UN-approved policy regarding refugees. Therefore, the Commonwealth of Australia holds great interest in supporting and encouraging the repatriation of returning refugees into their native societies. Along with such endeavours, the Commonwealth of Australia makes an effort in making the idea of voluntary repatriation appealing to current refugees and asylum seekers.

Since decades, the Commonwealth of Australia has been experimenting with refugee and asylum seeker policies, and, at the current status, is accepting refugees, however only in certain measures. Therefore, Australia is encouraging the voluntary repatriation of refugees returning back into their native society. Seeing as the first few steps are to be taken by the native country itself, Australia is fully supportive of the resolution *A/RES/69/154* addressing the topic of assisting refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa.

The first step towards the peaceful and voluntary repatriation is to be taken by the refugee's native country, as the conflict, that has driven them to flee stems from there and needs to be taken care of. The Commonwealth of Australia is willing to increase their support to those areas and nations, in improving the fickle situation as well as in ensuring the returnees a place to stay in a society without harassment or a social disadvantage through society itself, as well as through the government. Steps to be taken on the matter of possible harassment as well as governmental disadvantage need to be done mainly by the state itself; however, the Commonwealth of Australia realises the difficulty of implementing such measures and in order to make the voluntary repatriation more appealing to refugees that either have their case of asylum still pending or have a hard time settling in Australia, the Commonwealth of Australia is likely to offer courses in their native language or on their culture in the detention camps.

III. The perpetual eradication of the Ebola pandemic

First of all, the Commonwealth of Australia is, despite a slowing rate of infection, still concerned about every country that has been affected by the Ebola pandemic so far, as well as about those still suffering and making efforts to eradicate the pandemic as soon as possible. The Commonwealth of Australia has provided a treatment centre in Sierra Leone with over AUS20\$ Million as well as volunteers and is working in collaboration with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Acknowledging the severity and importance of perpetually eradicating the Ebola pandemic, the Commonwealth of Australia predominantly focuses on the security of its own population; both for the sake of not



endangering any Australian citizen or visitor as well as putting a halt to the pandemic by preventing the spreading of the disease over the borders of the already affected countries.

The Commonwealth of Australia is supportive of any and all efforts in order to keep the quarantine on affected countries by the pandemic, as well as of aiding the countries on all fronts in such worrisome times. In conclusion, the Commonwealth of Australia is accepting and supporting the resolution *A/RES/69/135*, which urges all countries and UN member states to provide assistance and guidance in humanitarian emergency situations; thus, it is applicable to the medical and health emergency Western Africa is experiencing.

As any other western country in possession of the financial and medical resources to combat the thankfully subsiding and decreasing scourge presented by the Ebola pandemic, the Commonwealth of Australia will continue to help with financial aid, along with volunteers to a degree that precludes a threat on the population of Australia itself, as this is a health care emergency. Another measure that can be taken, especially by more developed and advantaged UN members, is the funding of scientific and medical studies against the disease, additional to the funding of medication.