**Committee: UN Women**

**Country: Switzerland**

**Name Of The Delegate: Beren Tunalı**

**Agenda Item: Empowerment Of Women**

The Swiss Confederation, Switzerland, is a federal republic with 26 cantons with Bern serving as its administrative center. According to the CIA World Factbook, our country has one of the greatest gross domestic products per person worldwide, low unemployment, and a skilled work force. Low corporate tax rates, a highly developed service sector dominated by financial services, and a high-tech manufacturing industry all contribute to our nation's booming economy.

Looking at our history, Switzerland did not choose a side in either of the world wars and is not a member of the European Union and its neutrality has long been respected by its European neighbors. Hence, Geneva, in particular, is a well-liked choice for the headquarters of international organizations like the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations, even though Switzerland did not become a member of UN until 2002. As a consequence of its remarkably long-lived stability and carefully guarded neutrality, Switzerland also hosts the World Bank, WTO, and IMF.

The role of women in the development of our country cannot be denied. Gender equality and women’s rights are policy priorities for the Swiss Government. According to the United Nations' sustainable development goals by 2030, *“Gender equality is respected in both professional and private life, and women are assured of full and effective participation in decision-making at all economic, political and public levels. Unpaid care work is shared more equally between women and men. All forms of violence against women and girls are greatly reduced.”* In the category of promoting gender responsive public services to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, Switzerland was awarded first place with ‘’Advancing Gender Equal Pay Initiative’’ in 2018.

Women's rights and gender equality, which are protected by our laws, are the values where awareness is increasing both in the socio-cultural field and in the business world. In our country, the percentage of the legal frameworks that promote, enforce and monitor gender equality is 90.9%. The percentage of seats held by women in national parliaments are 42%, and Switzerland is working on the issue of increasing the role of women in both parlamential organizations and society.

##### We are aware of the fact that political empowerment, unpaid and domestic care work, gender wage gap and social protection of women is a serious global issue. Compared to males, women often put in around 2.5 times as much time providing unpaid care and doing housework. The quantity of time devoted to unpaid care work is inversely connected with female labour market participation. Women aged 25 to 54 make up 63% of the labor force, compared to men at 94% in the same age group. Almost 2.7 billion women around the world are legally prohibited from having the same selection of employment as males.

Nowhere in the world has gender equality been fully achieved. However, it is clear that we have made great progress starting form the last century. A step will be taken for women all over the world, only when women's rights, which should be kept under control by national and law-wide structuring and supervision, reaches an international level. It is very clear that supporting women's education and raising public awareness on gender equality will both increase the welfare level of societies and indirectly contribute to economic development. For this reason, Switzerland is ready to cooperate with all kinds of national and international government institutions, especially the UN, and non-governmental organizations that aim to protect women's rights on a global scale and to provide gender equality.

Undoubtedly, women of the working class are the ones who are fighting fearlessly against gender discrimination, exploitation, poverty, harassment and violence today. They are the ones who can create change. For this very reason, it is impossible for movements that do not focus on women's problems, do not adopt the methods of struggle of the working class, do not carry out meaningful organizing work in the workplace, within the ranks of the working class, to make meaningful progress in women's rights.