

Committee: The United Nations Programme for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN)

Country: The Republic of Paraguay

Agenda Item: Strengthening protections around women's fundamental rights in the MENA region

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The Republic of Paraguay is a developing South American country. It has three neighbors: Brazil, Argentina, and Bolivia. Its capital is Asunción, and it has a population of approximately 7 million. Due to its geographical location, Paraguay is landlocked. It is one of the world's largest producers of hydroelectric power. It gained independence from Spain in 1811. Paraguayan and Spanish cultures are dominant among the population.

The Paraguayan government pursues a serious policy regarding women's rights. According to a law enacted in 2016, femicide is considered a separate crime. Statistics show that most murders are committed by spouses, ex-spouses, or close partners. Regarding women's educational rights, the Paraguayan government follows an equal policy, offering equal educational opportunities to both girls and boys. However, in rural areas, early school dropout, early marriages, and teenage pregnancy continue to negatively affect girls' education. Regarding women's working lives and economic rights, loopholes in the law are frequently observed. Women receive lower wages than men, and they are more often employed in the informal sector. According to Paraguayan politics, women are underrepresented in parliament. These figures for Paraguay are below the average for Latin American countries. In recent years, the Paraguayan government has taken action to address these inequalities in line with women's rights. The government provides services such as shelters, free legal support, and psychological support for victimized women. The Paraguayan government aims to improve existing services and reach more women through international cooperation.

The Paraguayan government could implement scholarship and support programs to encourage girls in rural areas to attend school. As legal and social measures, they could strengthen the enforcement of laws restricting early marriage. The number of community support and shelter services aimed at protecting girls could be increased. Psychological support programs should be implemented for young mothers. Entrepreneurship and business opportunities could be offered to empower young women economically. Cooperation with international organizations and benefiting from the experiences of other countries could be effective in solving these problems.

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