POSITION PAPER

 

**Chile** is a long and narrow country located in the west of South America, with a land area of approximately 756,102 km². To the west of Chile lies the Pacific Ocean. Its capital is **Santiago**, and as of 2024, the country has a population of 19.5 million people. In developing countries, gender inequality negatively affects economic growth, sustainable development, and social welfare. Chile is one of the most stable and developed economies in South America. Today, it continues to fight against gender inequality. Chile took significant steps in this area, especially after **Michelle Bachelet**, the first female leader in 2006. Bachelet aimed to create a strong ministry to fight for women's equality. As a result, the **Ministry of Women and Gender Equality** was established. This ministry developed policies in areas such as the protection of women's rights, combating violence, and increasing women's participation in the workforce. Quota systems were created to give women more voting rights, ensuring greater female representation in local governments and the parliament. These reforms, which started in 2006, aimed to increase women's political representation and enabled Chilean women to have more influence in decision-making processes. Between 2007 and 2008, the **Pension System Reform** was implemented, which aimed to provide more security for women in retirement, with the government offering support to low-income women. To support women in their work, child care services were expanded. In 2010, the government developed programs to promote **women's entrepreneurship**, starting pilot projects to encourage women to be more active in the technology, agriculture, and service sectors. In 2014, **Michelle Bachelet** was re-elected as president. Under the "Agenda de Género" (Gender Agenda), women's economic independence was given special attention. By 2015-2016, the representation of women in the public sector was raised to 40%. The goal was to employ 300,000 women in qualified jobs. In 2017, gender equality was integrated into national budget processes. In 2018, the **Ministry of Women and Gender Equality** was established to institutionalize gender equality policies. During the pandemic years of 2020-2022, social assistance was provided to women with caregiving responsibilities, and special economic recovery programs for women were launched. Between 2023 and 2024, training in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields was offered to women. To improve and regulate the economy of countries, support must be provided to women in this area. First, women should be given access to education, flexible working hours, and remote working opportunities. Women's leadership should be increased, and more women should be promoted to managerial positions. There should be no salary discrimination between male and female employees.