

Committee: UN Women

Country : Canada

Delegate : Eylül İklim Özgen

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

Canada is a strong advocate for women's rights and gender equality, firmly recognizing them as fundamental human rights. Canada views women's empowerment as essential to peace, development, and stability. Canada not only supports UN Women's work and endeavours but also contributes to initiatives whose intention is to advance gender equality worldwide. Through its Feminist International Assistance Policy, which accelerates the intended implementation by funding, Canada prioritizes education, awareness, and long-term social change as the core elements for advancing women's rights.

In the MENA region, cultural norms and social barriers continue to limit women's access to fundamental rights, including education, employment, political participation and bodily autonomy. In addition these challenges that are faced are often aggravated by limited awareness of existing frameworks and persistent gender stereotypes. Although frameworks such as CEDAW and the Beijing Declaration provide comprehensive guidance, their impact is often undermined by insufficient public engagement and education. The significant progress actually relies on effective implementation supported by cooperation with UN Women and civil society such as NGOs.

Canada believes that especially education and awareness are critical to strengthening the protection of women's rights. Canada supports inclusive and gender-sensitive education, as well as public awareness campaigns, and community based education or support programs that promote equality while respecting cultural contexts. Addressing harmful stereotypes that confine women to domestic roles and limit their access to education and employment is crucial to achieving long-term social transformation.

Canada encourages cooperation among Member States and UN Women to strengthen partnerships that support implementation efforts. Through sustained education and cooperation, Canada believes that meaningful and considerable progress can be made toward protecting women's fundamental rights in the MENA region."