***Country: Canada***

***Committee: UN Women and Education Committee***

***Agenda item:*** ***Addressing Barriers to Girls’ Education and Promotes Women’s Empowerment Through Learning***

***Delegation: Ece Ülker***

*Millions of women and girls around the world still face big problems in getting education. In many places, schools are far, unsafe, or not friendly to girls. Some families do not support girls going to school and want them to stay home. Poverty, early marriage, and cultural beliefs also stop girls from learning. Even if they go to school, they may face poor conditions, not enough teachers, and few materials. These problems make it hard for girls to finish school and reach their goals.*

*Many countries are trying to tackle these problems on the national and international levels. Canada is one of the countries which are actively supporting women's education on different levels. There are many women in Canada who are helped to fund their education. The Canada Student Loans Program helps over 350,000 students every year, and of the people who get this help of these loans, about 58% are women. The program has been improved by the government by increasing the funds available and providing help with childcare costs and grants to students with low incomes or disabilities.*

*These reforms benefit numerous women, in particular single mothers and women who study part-time. The government also awards scholarships to over 100,000 students annually, which assists women, particularly single mothers, in funding their education.*

*Canada supports learning in ways other than providing funds. In 2004, the Government of Canada contributed $85 million to the Canadian Council on Learning. The funds were used in making evidence-based decisions in all aspects of education. It supports in supporting females in their education and careers. This shows that Canada is not only providing funds but also improving education throughout Canada.*

*Canada has worked to support education for girls and women within the nation and globally. In Canada, both boys and girls can attend free public schools. The government has designed particular programs for Indigenous peoples, immigrants, and girls with disabilities to assist them in performing well at school. Canada's Post-Secondary Student Support Program (PSSSP) supports Indigenous women in attending college as well as university by offering financial money for school. Canada is also a leader around the world. In 2018, Canada launched the Charlevoix Declaration on Quality Education for Girls with G7 nations. Under this, Canada committed $400 million CAD to promote girls' education in developing nations, particularly in crisis or conflict situations. In total, this international initiative raised $3.8 billion USD. The funds went toward female teacher training, safe school construction, and educational materials. Canada assists UNICEF, UNESCO, and UN Women in supporting programs that get more girls into school and improve gender equality in education. These initiatives show that Canada does not just talk about the rights of girls but puts money into real programs to provide fair and equal education to women and girls around the globe.*