

Position Paper

Committee: UNWomen

Agenda Item: Gender Based Inequality in Global Health Systems

Country: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



I. Background of the Topic

Gender based inequality in global health systems still remains a persistent challenge affecting areas like medical research, healthcare funding priorities, access to services, and quality of care worldwide. A significant source of this inequality lies in long standing research biases, where medical studies have historically prioritized the male physiology over the female physiology, which results in misdiagnosis, delayed treatments and ineffective healthcare outcomes for women. In addition to that, gender norms discourage men from seeking time sensitive physical and mental healthcare, which further deepens systemic gaps.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recognizes that addressing these challenges requires the strengthening of the foundations of health systems through equitable research practices and sustainable fundings. In alignment with the SDGs (Sustainable development Goals) particularly SDG 3 (Good health and wellbeing) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Saudi Arabia supports gender responsive healthcare reforms that respect the national contexts, cultural values and sovereign policy frameworks.

II. Past International and National Actions

At an international level, Saudi Arabia has actively supported multilateral health initiatives through cooperation with UN agencies such as the World Health Organization and UNWomen. The Kingdom has contributed to programs aimed at improving maternal health, strengthening health infrastructure, supporting medical research ,capacity building initiatives aimed at reducing systemic health disparities. and expanding access to health care services in vulnerable regions.

Nationally, Saudi Arabia has implemented wide ranging healthcare and social reforms under Vision 2030. with significant investments in medical research, digital health systems, and healthcare infrastructure. These reforms have increased female participation in the healthcare workforce, expanded preventive and maternal health services, and enhanced data driven approaches to healthcare planning, ultimately improving accessibility and quality of care.

III. Country Position and Proposed Solutions

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia emphasizes that addressing gender based inequality in global health systems must begin with equitable medical research and sustainable healthcare funding, as these form the foundation of effective and accessible healthcare systems. Without inclusive research and adequate financial investment, efforts to expand access risk being ineffective and unsustainable.

Saudi Arabia supports increased funding for gender sensitive medical research, improved health data collection, and evidence based policy making to ensure that healthcare systems respond accurately to the needs of all patients. The Kingdom further advocates for targeted investment in healthcare institutions, research centers, and workforce training, including initiatives that promote women's participation in medical research and healthcare leadership.

As a result of strengthened research frameworks and funding mechanisms, Saudi Arabia views improved accessibility to healthcare (particularly for women, children, and underserved communities) as a measurable outcome of effective system reform. At the international level, the Kingdom supports enhanced cooperation between UN Women and relevant UN agencies to provide technical assistance and capacity building programs, while maintaining respect for national sovereignty and avoiding prescriptive frameworks.

In conclusion, Saudi Arabia remains committed to advancing equitable and inclusive health systems through research driven, well funded, and nationally led approaches. By prioritizing inclusive medical research and sustainable investment, the Kingdom seeks to improve accessibility, quality of care, and long term health outcomes for all, while respecting cultural diversity and national policy autonomy.