



Country : Belgium

Committee: CSW(Commission on the Status of Women)

Topic: Women's involvements as social, economic and political strategies and policies on gender equality.

Around the world, women are still victims of various forms of discrimination and inequality, both in their professional lives and at the family, economic, social, civilian or political level. Our country believes that the development of women's rights has an important role in the development of the country in all areas. In the past, the Belgian Parliament had been heavily male-dominated. However, thanks to policies like the Quota Act, this has been changing, a major win for women's rights in Belgium. Belgium is closing its workforce gender gap. Despite that, when examining board members in Belgian companies, women only hold 30.7% of the seats also women in Belgium are still more vulnerable than men to living in poverty.

Belgium implemented the accelerated Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action to overcome problems. Belgium partnered with UN Women to introduce the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The accelerated commitment outlined six main tactics for addressing gender inequality: (1) investing in gender equality at the national and international levels, (2) updating or establishing new action plans, strategies and policies on gender equality, (3) enhancing women's leadership and participation at all levels of decision-making, (4) introducing new laws or reviewing and implementing existing ones to promote gender equality, (5) preventing and addressing social norms and stereotypes that condone gender inequality, discrimination and violence and (6) launching public mobilization and national campaigns to promote gender equality.

As part of the broader reform agenda of the United Nations, UN Women the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women is a partnered with organisation of the Belgian development cooperation. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) was drawn up in 1979. This Convention aims to eliminate all aspects of discrimination in the public and private lives of women. Not only is our country actively engaged in promoting the ratification and implementation of this Convention, it also regularly calls on other countries to withdraw their reservations regarding this Convention.

Moreover, as early as 1946, the United Nations provided for the establishment of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Within the framework of the EU, Belgium has been actively participating in these sessions for many years and always advocates a final outcome that is as progressive as possible. With 25 commitments to act, covering both its external and internal policies, Belgium steps it up for gender equality and women's empowerment. While continuing its strategic partnership with UN Women, Belgium will adopt a new gender strategy for its development cooperation. Domestically, all government levels will adopt, implement and evaluate gender mainstreaming legislation or methods. Furthermore, a sixth national action plan on the fight against gender-based violence is being developed in line with the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. This Convention will be ratified by Belgium as soon as possible and without formulating any reservations. Its legislation on gender discrimination will be evaluated and adapted and awareness-raising campaigns on gender discrimination and stereotypes and their consequences will be launched.