Committee: UNWOMEN

Country: New Zealand

Agenda Item 1: Women on Governance and National Planning

Agenda Item 2: Promoting Gender Equality in the Digital Age

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New Zealand is an island nation located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean. It comprises two main islands, the North Island and the South Island, along with 700 smaller Islands. It is the sixth-largest island nation in terms of area, situated to the east of Australia across the Tasman Sea and to the south of New Caledonia Islands, Fiji and Tonga. Wellington is the capital and Auckland is the most populous city of New Zealand. New Zealand Islands were the last large land to be settled by humans whom were Polynesians began to settle the island and developed a unique Māori culture between about 1280 to 1350. The official languages of the New Zealand are Māori, New Zealand Sign Language and English. New Zealand has a highly developed free market economy. The country has the 52nd largest economy in terms of gross domestic product and the 63rd largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity. In the country, which has a very large economy compared to its population of 5 million, the income per capita is 42,084 US dollars.

Throughout its history, New Zealand has had a long time promoting women’s rights. It was the first country in the world where women get the right to vote in the 19th century. In 1919 women were allowed to run for Parliament. The country approved the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Dicrimination against Women (CEDAW) on 10 January 1985. The Ministry for women oversees the administration of CEDAW and its Optional Protocol. Although research indicates that New Zealand boasts 50.9% female represantation on public sector boards, there remains a need for futher efforts to enhance gender inclusivity across all boards and promote greater ethnic diversity.

Technology is playing a crucial role in narrowing the gender gap and empowering women, offering the potential to provide equal opportunities for women worldwide. However, the field of information and communication technology (ITC) continues to be a domain where women often face discrimination and are excluded from digital employment opportunities to encountering cyber harassment. There is still significant work required to achieve in terms of equality in this area. The digital era promises oppotunities for all individuals, irrespective of gender.

Equality, or having equal rights and opportunities regardless of gender, is a fundamental human right. It is also the foundation for a healthier, more productive, and more peaceful world. New Zealand has historically committed to achieving gender parity, and it is one of the best performing countries around the world. It is the sixth counrty worldwide, and the first in the East Asia and the Pacific region where progress toward gender parity is the most advanced. New Zealand would like to be a good example of empowering power in all fields.

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