

Country: the Kingdom of Morocco

Committee: UNWOMEN

Agenda Item: Women on Governance and National & Planning & Promoting Gender Equality in the Digital Age

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UNWOMEN is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and empowerment of women. It focuses on women's issues and it seeks the best solutions for those issues.

A. Women on Governance and National Planning

The first agenda item of the committee is “*Women on Governance and National Planning*”. In many countries- even in the most developed ones, women are usually overtaken by men in numerous areas including higher-level positions, and the importance of is usually downplayed. These 2 subjects are what we are going to talk about in this agenda.

Morocco is a country where many women live, and supporting and encouraging Moroccan women is one of the most crucial aims to which the Moroccan Government dedicated itself. And Morocco will never hesitate to help its women. Morocco believes that every woman should live under equal circumstances, treatment, and opportunities.

So that Moroccan women can have better lives, Morocco has developed itself in the topics of “Gender Equality” and “Women's Rights” in the past few years with the 2011 Constitution, the Joint Programme, the New Development Model, Financial Law and with the new Family Code as known as the “Moudawana”. The 2011 Constitution guarantees equal protection and enjoyment of its laws for both men and women. The country’s progressive Family Law (Moudawana) secured important rights for Moroccan women, including the right to self-guardianship, the right to divorce, and the right to child custody. The legal marriage age changed from 15 to 18 years of age, and women are no longer required to have a male guardian approve their marriage. The criminal code has taken strides against acts of gender-based violence, cracking down on non-partner sexual assault and repealing the rape marriage law, which allowed a rapist to evade punishment by marrying his victim.

The Kingdom of Morocco works for the protection of the rights and legitimate interests of the Moroccan citizens resident abroad, with respect for international law and for the laws in the host countries. It is committed to the maintenance and development of their human ties, notably cultural, with the Kingdom, and the preservation of their national identity. (Article 16, from 2011 Constitution)

Based on Morocco’s vantage point, the representation of women by women's representatives plays a vanguard and a vital role in providing gender equality. Moroccan women have been

able to impose and strengthen their presence in the judicial sector after the independence of the Kingdom, making Morocco, during this period, a pioneer country and a model in the Arab world from the point of gender equality. Similarly, Moroccan women judges have been elected as members of many fields such as the Constitutional Court, governance councils, and major constitutional institutions and in international courts and committees in the fields of justice and human rights.

B. Promoting Gender Equality in the Digital Age

The second agenda item is “*Promoting Gender Equality In the Digital Age*”. The Digital Age means our present time, where any kind of information is available anywhere, anytime. In a global context, women's empowerment serves as a fundamental guide for humanity, steering us toward a more equitable and righteous existence. The essence of women's empowerment is of paramount importance, cutting across cultural, social, and economic boundaries, and transcending borders to address a compelling need for the betterment of future generations.

From the Kingdom of Morocco’s point of view, providing equal opportunities for both genders in STEM fields, accessibility to education, having personal technological devices (smartphones, laptops, etc.), accessing the internet and things similar to them are crucial for providing gender equality.

In 2012, Morocco developed a National Digital Strategy entitled “Morocco Numeric 2013” which has created significant development momentum, including the introduction of e-governance services.

Morocco’s first-ever school, the first educational institution that is poised to introduce a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) pedagogical approach in Morocco, was inaugurated in Fez on May 7, hereupon, it can be said that Morocco cares about its students and education system including STEM.

Morocco is also trying its best to provide internet for the poor sides of the country with AFCHIX. AFCHIX is a network of African women in technology who believe that gender diversity is crucial to building a thriving and innovative ICT sector in Africa. Through the WomenConnect Challenge, the organization was awarded two grants to expand women’s access to the Internet and provide digital training to over 370 women in a few countries including Morocco.

Briefly, Morocco provides and it is trying to provide equal rights and opportunities for its women in every aspect of their lives. But unfortunately, like every country, Morocco is having difficulty in fully adopting the gender-neutral lifestyle. The Kingdom of Morocco promises that it is open to collaborations and it will keep seeking the best for women.

SOURCES

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