Country: Canada

Committee: SPECPOL (Special, Political and

Decolonization Committee)

Agenda Item: Establishing a Global Framework

for the Protection of Stateless People

 Canada is a country in North America and it’s the second largest country by total area, spanning 10 provinces and 3 territories with the world’s longest coastline. With a population over 40 million people and a nation with great cultural and ethnic diversity. It’s inhibited by First Nations, Inuit and Métis tribes. Then colonized by France in 16th century and later controlled by Britain. But gained full independence with Statute of Westminster (1931) and the Constitution Act (1982). Canada is governed by constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy. The country is officially bilingual. English and French being it’s primary languages. Also known for immigration-friendly policies, embraces diversity and is actively involved in UN and NATO activities; promoting peace, human rights and sustainability. Canada has been active in issues related to displaced persons and refugees, often taking a lead role in efforts to provide humanitarian assistance and support for displaced populations. Canada has also supported various international efforts to address stateless individuals rights and has advocated for the decolonization of territories and has worked alongside other nations to encourage the peaceful resolution of colonial issues.

 Statelessness has been around for centuries and it’s a worrying issue through history. Before the first civilizations and nations people were organized into tribal groups therefore it was impossible to be a civilized nation at the beginning of the history everyone was stateless. But when people started to form a nationalism among themselves and started to form a framework this caused a distinction developed between those who had a legal attachment to a state in contrast and those who did not. However in our modern day statelessness is usually caused by discriminatory laws, conflict and displacement such as wars, unregistered births. This issue affects an estimated 10 million people worldwide. There is some organizations such as UNHCR that are working for stateless peoples rights and reducing statelessness. Canada has a strong bond with UNHCR. It’s one of the top resettlement country for refugees/stateless people and participates in UNHCR-led programs and works closely with UNHCR. Canada advocates for stronger international frameworks for stateless and is an active participant in these discussions. Canada also funds UNHCR for refugee camps, resettlement programs and other services; provides financial support for humanitarian rights. Also supports #IBelong Campaign which aims to end statelessness by 2030. Canada is one of the signatories to the 1954 convention. We actively participate in UN forums and committees such as the Fourth Committee, addressing the rights and challenges of stateless people; advocates gender equality in citizenship laws to prevent statelessness caused by discriminatory. Canada aligns international policies with UN goals, ensuring protection and pathways to Canadian citizenship. And gives access to education, healthcare and legal assistance to stateless individuals. Canada also cooperates with many countries to find a solution to this problem such as; USA, UK, France and other EU countries also engages with countries like Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia,Kenya, Cote d'ivoire, South Africa, Jordan Lebanon. We also collaborate with Commonwealth nations.

 Canada has a policy for statelessness that emphasizes international cooperation, advocacy and legal reforms to create a global framework that protect stateless people, reduces new statelessness cases, and offers solutions to people who are facing these situations. In future Canada will continue to support UNHCR activities and #IBelong Campaign, potentially improve it’s own national laws that are related to citizenship, ensuring that stateless individuals can more easily gain legal status and citizenship. We aim to strengthen our partnership with countries an UN organizations. We will work on improving our status and protections for stateless people and migrants and making sure that those groups are not excluded from protection or rights. Canada will continue to advocate stateless individual rights and ensuring their access to basic rights such as education, healthcare and employment. Canada also aims to remain a global leader in the battle against statelessness. At the end of this conference we aim to eliminate this problem by finding a long-term, non-victimizing and peaceful solutions for stateless individuals and refugees in cooperation with other countries.

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