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**TOPIC**: Innovation and Technological Change, and Education in the Digital Age for Achieving Gender Equality and the Empowerment of All Women and Girls

*“No class distinctions exist in the State. Belgians are equal before the law [..].  
 Equality between women and men is guaranteed.” –* Article 10 of the Belgian Constitution.

The First World Conference on Women was organized by the UN and took place in 1975. 133 governments attended it. A parallel forum, the International Women’s Tribune, was attended by 6,000 NGOs. Major forums of such scale have been held by the UNCSW ever since. As a result, major strides in the fight for equal rights have been made over the past 50 years. While commendable, there is much left to do to attain true gender equality. The Kingdom of Belgium strongly believes that obtaining equal rights for women is of international and generational importance.

Belgium has persevered to establish equality between men and women for many decades. From 2002 onwards, the Belgian Constitution has guaranteed total gender equality to its people. As the future of a country lies in the hands of its children, the Belgian Government strives to promote a gender inclusive mindset in its children from a young age through their education. It ensures that there is fair representation of women in media, and makes sure to eliminate gender stereotypes. Recognizing the threat that sexist actions pose, The Government of Belgium considers sexism to be illegal in certain circumstances and launched a National Action Plan, that was active from 2017 to 2021, to fight violence against women. To ensure equal pay, the Gender Pay Gap Law of 2012 was brought forth to increase the transparency of businesses via disaggregated data between men and women and has received praise worldwide. Belgium encourages women and men to pursue their dreams, whatever they might be. And often, it is women who dream about further education in Belgium. Hence, Belgian women tend to be better educated than their male counterparts. 49% of women aged 25-34 have a tertiary degree, while only 36% of men of the same age pursued the same.

Belgium praises and compliments the UN for the formation of this commission, and believes in the ability of the UNCSW to pave the way for gender equality in all its member states diplomatically. The delegation of Belgium recommends that in the 21st century, the international community must exploit digital resources to attain true gender equality. Several NGOs and private citizens worldwide positively represent and champion women’s rights through social media campaigns, digital workshops, books, music, art, television shows on OTP platforms, etc. Governments must support these causes by providing them with financial aid and helping them achieve a wider platform. Governments can partner with online services such as Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, and so on, to educate their citizens about women’s rights issues. Governments must increase female representation in politics not only through laws, but also by normalizing women in power through the media. An educated and well-thought-out appeal to the younger generation through social media will ensure the credence of gender equality to be realized throughout lands and generations.   
To fight for this just cause, the Kingdom of Belgium would be honored to lend its resources and time to the UNCSW and its member nations, and it looks forward to doing so.

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