Committee: The Commission on the Status of Women

Topics: Women and Sustainability, Elimination of Gender-Based Violence, and Women in Education and Employment

Country: Azerbaijan

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As an emerging energy and cultural Asian entity, the Republic of Azerbaijan is committed to achieving equality for women through their participation in sustainable development, the elimination of gender based violence, and investment in education and employment. It is essential that standardized laws with international jurisdiction be implemented to empower women. Despite the variation in women’s traditional roles and treatment within different cultures, Azerbaijan believes that women have inherent, universal rights as human beings. In 2016, women everywhere, especially in developing countries, do not have access to these rights. It is imperative that clear lines been drawn between the rule of law and personal beliefs when it comes to the provision of women’s rights within every nation. Through improved legislation and active NGOs, Azerbaijan is striving to exemplify this belief in the way the country is run.

As a nation which prides itself in both its energy resources and agriculture sector, Azerbaijan is working towards increasing the participation of women in sustainable development. In fact, 53.36% of economically active women in Azerbaijan work in the agriculture sector. A combination of new and improved legislation, and partnerships with NGOs have been put in place to assist women in agriculture who wish to take on leadership roles and expand their businesses. Sections 9-11 of the “Guarantees of Equal Rights of Women and Men Law” prohibits the discrimination of women in entrepreneurship, agricultural administration, and in the ownership of land. Organizations such as Oxfam, IFAD and the UNDP have contributed to this effort through initiatives such as co-operative farming, and the facilitation of transitions from sustenance to sustainable farming. While passing legislation to enable women to access their rights is important, the implementation and enforcement of these rights is essential for their success, and is where many nations fall short. Collaboration with NGOs and international organizations allows new legislation to be introduced at a grassroots level in a way that is gradual, and culturally acceptable.

Azerbaijan has taken measures to eliminate Gender-Based violence through the “Promote Gender Equality Bill”**,**the [**2010 “Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence**](http://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=32050)” and several amendments made in other legislation. The NGO led “Empowering Women Victims of Domestic Violence with Improved Socio-Economic Capacity and gender Awareness in the Republic of Azerbaijan” has also taken flight, with special concern for the wellbeing of female refugee and IDPs. As with women’s participation in sustainable development, it is evident that legislation has been put into place in Azerbaijan to end violence against women, however the enforcement of these new policies is in need of improvement. Participating in gender-based violence is a learned behaviour. This is why the Republic of Azerbaijan suggests that resolutions on this topic target the education of school aged children on the prevention of and immoral practise of gender based violence. If the next generation of global citizens, including Azerbaijanis, have compassion instilled in their hearts, and the power of knowledge, violence against women is sure to be dramatically reduced.

In Azerbaijan, women account for approximately 49.5 of the workforce. This is a standard that we are proud to uphold. However, there is need for diversification in the sectors of the workforce that the women are employed in. In our country, only 6.3% of legislators and representatives in the government are women, while 73% of those in elementary occupations are women. Similar statistics are common among developed and developing countries alike. Azerbaijan would like to propose that a standardize index to evaluate the status of women within a country’s workforce be created. This index would take into consideration *multiple* factors such the education of women of women in the workforce, their income, and their distribution throughout the sectors of the workforce. Using this index, countries can be compared in a way that makes it easier to identify systems that are working, and improve those that aren’t.

In order for women to obtain jobs, and diversify their presence in the workforce, they must have an education. As the old Azeri proverb goes, “What you put in the pot, you get out”. Azerbaijan believes that through breaking down of economic barriers in education for women, this diversity can be achieved. Economic barriers that women face when trying to obtain an education need to be the focus of this topic’s committee session. The majority of the 7 to 8% of children still not attending school in Azerbaijan are girls from impoverished families, who kept at home perform household duties. Whether it be tuition fees in the United States, or child labour in India, economic barriers prevent girls from accessing the knowledge and resources they deserve in every corner of the world.

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