**Position Paper**

**Country: Saudi Arabia**

**Agenda:** **Empowering women through entrepreneurship**.

**Committee: United Nations status of women ( UNCSW )**

Women empowerment is still quite new in the vocabulary in the gender literature. Empowering women in general sense refers to women being self-dependent by providing them equal opportunities as that of men . As said by UN Women Deputy Executive Director Lakshmi Puri , in her opening remarks -- " Encouraging entrepreneurship is one of the most impactful steps we can take in addressing the disparities we see today . " "Empowering young women to become not only wage earners but also Job creators is imperative for achieving the 2030 Agenda and for eradicating poverty " she added . UN Women are leading that change in building knowledge on gender equality & women empowerment.

It was estimated that by 2020 , 870 million women who have been living or contributing at a substance level will enter the economic mainstream for the ﬁrst time as producers, consumers, employees, & entrepreneurs . It is becoming extremely clear that that women are and will continue to be , powerful drivers of development . When men & women become more equal , the economy grows faster , fewer people remain in poverty , and over all wellbeing increases , studies have shown that that raising of female employment to male levels can have a direct impact on GDP growth rates , increasing it by 34 percent in some countries. When women are empowered to make an income, accumulate assets and economic security , they improve industrial outcries ,& that countries productively can increase by as much as 25 percent , if discriminatory boundaries are removed .

For Arab women , pursuing gender equality is a part of an agenda comprising functioning democracies and meaningful development ; Equality under the law ; closing of deﬁcits in freedom ;& the redressing of gender based human rights concerns such as violence against women, Said by the UN . In the G20 meeting of 2019 , Saudi Arabia participated in the women empowerment initiative that aims to reduce the pay gap between male and female as well as supporting women's participation in small businesses . The empowerment and economic inclusion of Saudi women are necessary steps for the creation of a more productive society that supports improved economic growth. This was the conclusion of of discussion. The recommendations focused on four areas: ﬁnancial inclusions, digital inclusions, labor inclusions , & inclusion decision- making with women's entrepreneurship a common thread running through them all . Al-Walan said - " Entrepreneurship is the largest sustainable resource for any country especially so during the current crisis “, She added that " Sustained high level engagement by , and commitment of women are essential to challenging the stereotypes about their abilities ". During the late 20th & the early 21st centuries, women rights in Saudi Arabia have been severely limited in comparison to the rights of women in many of its neighboring countries due to the strict interpretation & application of sharia law . Sharia law a law forming at the part of the Islamic traditions, it is derived from the religious precepts of Islam, particularly the Quran and the hadith . The world economic forum's 2016 global general gap report ranked Saudi Arabia 141 out of 144 countries for gender parity down from 134 out of 145 in 2015 . The United Nations Economic and Social Council ( ECOSOC ) elected Saudi Arabia to the UN Commission on Status of Women for 2018 - 2022 , Upon these facts we can say that Saudi

Arabia is not the most women empowering country through entrepreneurship though it is getting there.

There are many ways we can empower women through entrepreneurship and have equal opportunities :-

**1. Empowering women entrepreneurs :**

• Better educational facilities & schemes can be extended to women folk from the government part • Encourage women's participation in decision making.

• Vocational training to be extended to women community that enables them to understand the production process and production management

**2. Empowerment of women through entrepreneurship:**

• Increased self-conﬁdence through entrepreneurship development can give women a prosperous future.

• Capital building: Their (Women) economic success enables women to expand their business, procure new machinery, tools, accessories and relevant necessities. Modernizations of the work-place, introduction of new technology for increase production, increase of laborers, along with the increase in purchasing power, upgrade their status both socially and economically.

• Role of status : Some aspects of household decision making are reported to have changed as a result of women’s contribution in family income. Most of the men now consult with their wives in important family matters. Their power of decision making has increased because they have money. Since women retain control over earnings, women can easily lend small and big amounts to business and others without asking for their husbands’ permission. Since women perceive that their bargaining power within the family has increased as an indirect outcome of participating in the business. Women’s status has changed in the family & society gradually

• To encourage women entrepreneurship all banks and ﬁnancial institutions should be asked to provide one ﬁfth of their investment for women owned enterprises