**Committee:** United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)

 **Country:** Canada

**Topic:** Tackling Gender Disparities and Enhancing Women's Involvement in STEM Fields

**Introduction**

Canada recognizes the importance of addressing gender disparities in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. Despite progress in recent years, women remain under represented in these critical sectorssd, limiting their opportunities for economic empowerment and obstruct innovation and sustainable development. As a nation committed to promoting gender equality and advancing women's rights, Canada believes that promoting women's participation in STEM is essential for achieving comprehensive and equitable growth.

**History and Current situation**

Canada acknowledges the constant challenges faced by women in STEM fields, including:

1. **Under representation in STEM Professions:** Women continue to be under represented in STEM professions, particularly in leadership roles and fields such as engineering and computer science.
2. **Gender Bias and Stereotypes:** Gender bias and stereotypes continue to discourage girls and women from pursuing careers in STEM, maintainig a culture of exclusion and limiting their potential.
3. **Barriers to Education and Training:** Women and girls face barriers to accessing quality education and training in STEM subjects, including limited resources, lack of mentorship opportunities, and societal expectations.
4. **Workplace Discrimination:** Women in STEM often experience discrimination and bias in the workplace, including unequal pay, lack of advancement opportunities, and a unfriendly work environment.

**Canada's Plans and policies for the agenda**

1. **Promoting STEM Education for Girls:** Canada advocates for initiatives that promote STEM education and engagement among girls from an early age. This includes investing in STEM programs in schools, providing mentorship opportunities, and challenging gender stereotypes about STEM careers.
2. **Supporting Women in STEM Careers:** Canada supports policies and programs that create a supportive and comprehensive environment for women in STEM professions. This includes addressing workplace discrimination, promoting work-life balance, and providing opportunities for professional development and advancement.
3. **Closing the Gender Pay Gap:** Canada is committed to closing the gender pay gap in STEM fields by promoting pay transparency, enforcing equal pay laws, and encouraging employers to adopt gender-neutral recruitment and promotion practices.
4. **PRomoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Canada recognizes the importance of fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among women in STEM. This includes providing access to funding and resources for women-led startups, promoting networks and collaborations, and supporting initiatives that address the unique challenges faced by women entrepreneurs in STEM fields.

**Conclusion**

Canada reaffirms its commitment to tackling gender disparities and enhancing women's involvement in STEM fields. By addressing the barriers and challenges faced by women and girls in STEM, Canada believes that we can unlock their full potential and contribute to building more inclusive, innovative, and prosperous societies. Canada stands ready to collaborate with other member states and stakeholders to advance this important agenda within the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

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