POSITION PAPER

Conference: FairGaze FreeVoice MUN 2.0

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Country: Italy

Agenda: Addressing the Institutionalization of Gender-Based Discrimination in Afghanistan: Examining the Recognition of “Gender Apartheid”, Accountability Mechanisms and the International Community’s Responsibility to Protect Fundamental Rights.

I. Background of the Issue

Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, women and girls have faced severe restrictions on their fundamental rights. These include restrictions on education, employment, freedom of movement and participation in public life.

The exclusion of girls from secondary and higher education and the systematic restriction of women’s freedoms have raised serious concerns within the international community. Such policies undermine the principles of equality, dignity and human rights.

II. Position of Italy

Italy strongly condemns the systematic discrimination and marginalization of women and girls in Afghanistan. Italy believes that fundamental human rights must be protected regardless of gender.

Italy supports international efforts to protect Afghan women and girls through diplomatic engagement, humanitarian assistance and accountability mechanisms. Italy believes that the recognition of gender apartheid deserves serious international consideration as a means of addressing institutionalized gender-based discrimination.

III. International Legal Framework

Italy emphasizes the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Italy also recognizes the importance of international accountability. International legal proceedings concerning alleged gender-based persecution in Afghanistan demonstrate the importance of ensuring that serious violations of human rights do not go unaddressed.

IV. Proposed Solutions

1. Education: Support international initiatives that restore access to secondary and higher education for Afghan girls.

2. Economic Empowerment: Encourage humanitarian and development programmes that provide women with employment opportunities and financial independence.

3. Accountability: Strengthen international monitoring and documentation of human rights violations and support appropriate legal accountability mechanisms.

4. Humanitarian Assistance: Ensure that humanitarian aid reaches Afghan women and girls without discrimination.

5. International Cooperation: Encourage cooperation among the United Nations, international organizations and member states to protect fundamental rights.

6. Women’s Participation: Promote the meaningful participation of Afghan women in diplomatic discussions and decisions concerning their country’s future.

V. Conclusion

Italy firmly believes that gender equality is essential for peace, stability and sustainable development. The international community must remain united in defending the fundamental rights and dignity of Afghan women and girls.

Italy calls for continued diplomatic engagement, humanitarian support and effective accountability to ensure that no individual is denied their basic human rights because of their gender.

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Committee: UNHRC

Country Represented: Italy