Position Paper

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

Country: Democratic Republic of the Congo

Agenda: Addressing Gender-Based Discrimination and the Systematic Exclusion of Women in Afghanistan

I. Background of the Issue

The Democratic Republic of the Congo recognizes that gender-based discrimination remains a serious threat to human rights and human dignity. In Afghanistan, restrictions imposed on women and girls under the Taliban's de facto authorities have severely limited their access to education, employment, healthcare, and public participation.

The DRC believes that these restrictions undermine the principles of equality and non-discrimination established under international human rights law, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The exclusion of women from public life also threatens Afghanistan's long-term social and economic development.

II. Position of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo strongly supports the protection of women's fundamental rights and recognizes the importance of international cooperation in addressing gender-based discrimination.

As a country that has experienced prolonged conflict and the devastating consequences of sexual violence, the DRC understands the importance of protecting women and girls from discrimination, exploitation, and violence. The country also recognizes that women in conflict-affected regions face additional barriers to accessing education, healthcare, and justice.

The DRC maintains that the international community must address the situation in Afghanistan through peaceful diplomatic engagement, humanitarian assistance, and accountability for human rights violations. Any response must prioritize the safety and dignity of Afghan women and girls while avoiding measures that would further harm vulnerable civilians.

III. Proposed Solutions

The Democratic Republic of the Congo proposes the following measures:

1. **Protect humanitarian assistance:** Maintain and strengthen humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, ensuring that women and girls have access to essential healthcare, education, food, and other basic services.
2. **Promote women's education and employment:** Encourage international organizations and humanitarian agencies to support educational opportunities, vocational training, and employment initiatives for Afghan women and girls.
3. **Strengthen diplomatic engagement:** Encourage dialogue with Afghanistan's de facto authorities while maintaining international pressure for the restoration of women's fundamental rights.
4. **Improve accountability and monitoring:** Support UNHRC monitoring mechanisms to document human rights violations against women and girls and encourage accountability through peaceful and lawful means.
5. **Support women-led organizations:** Increase assistance to Afghan women's organizations and civil society groups working to protect women's rights and provide essential services.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo calls upon the international community to adopt a coordinated, rights-based approach that ensures the protection of Afghan women and girls while preserving humanitarian assistance for those in need.