POSITION PAPER

Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)
Country: Republic of Armenia

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.

Introduction

The Republic of Armenia reaffirms its commitment to the principles of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the equal enjoyment of fundamental rights and freedoms by all individuals. Armenia recognizes that the ongoing human rights crisis in Afghanistan, particularly the systematic discrimination and exclusion faced by women and girls, requires urgent and sustained international attention.

The situation in Afghanistan has resulted in severe restrictions on women's access to education, employment, public participation, and other fundamental freedoms. Such restrictions undermine not only the rights and dignity of Afghan women and girls but also the country's long-term peace, stability, and development. Armenia believes that no sustainable and inclusive society can be built when half of its population is denied the opportunity to participate fully in social, economic, and political life.

Armenia's Position

Armenia firmly supports the promotion of gender equality and the protection of women and girls from discrimination and violence. While recognizing the importance of respecting the sovereignty and cultural diversity of all nations, Armenia emphasizes that cultural or political differences cannot justify violations of universally recognized human rights.

The delegation of Armenia is deeply concerned by the systematic nature of restrictions imposed on Afghan women and girls. The international community must carefully examine whether such widespread and institutionalized discrimination requires stronger recognition under international law, including continued discussion regarding the concept of **"gender apartheid."** However, Armenia believes that any legal recognition or classification must be based on established principles of international law and supported by credible evidence and impartial international mechanisms.

Armenia also stresses that accountability is essential to preventing further violations. The Human Rights Council has already taken important steps to strengthen international monitoring and investigation of human rights violations in Afghanistan. These mechanisms must receive adequate political and institutional support to document violations, preserve evidence, and ensure that victims and survivors have access to justice.

Proposed Solutions

The Republic of Armenia proposes a balanced and cooperative approach based on the following measures:

First, strengthening international monitoring and accountability. Armenia supports the continued work of relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms in documenting violations against women

and girls. Evidence must be collected and preserved responsibly to support future legal proceedings and accountability efforts.

Second, protecting access to education and essential services. The international community should prioritize programmes that support Afghan women and girls in accessing education, healthcare, humanitarian assistance, and livelihood opportunities. International assistance should be delivered in a manner that protects fundamental rights and reaches vulnerable populations.

Third, supporting Afghan women and civil society. Afghan women, human rights defenders, educators, and civil society organizations must be included in international discussions concerning Afghanistan's future. Their experiences and perspectives are essential to developing effective and sustainable solutions.

Fourth, promoting international cooperation. Armenia encourages Member States, United Nations agencies, and regional organizations to coordinate their efforts. A fragmented international response will weaken the protection of human rights. Cooperation should combine diplomatic engagement, humanitarian assistance, human rights monitoring, and long-term support for Afghan civil society.

Finally, ensuring that accountability does not come at the expense of humanitarian assistance. The people of Afghanistan continue to face serious humanitarian challenges. Armenia believes that political disagreements with the de facto authorities must not result in the abandonment of the Afghan population. Humanitarian assistance must continue to reach those in need, particularly women, children, and other vulnerable groups.

Conclusion

The Republic of Armenia believes that the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan represents one of the most serious contemporary challenges to the universality of human rights. The systematic exclusion of women from education, employment, and public life demands a clear and coordinated response from the international community. Recent United Nations reporting continues to document severe restrictions affecting women's participation in education, work, and public life.

Armenia therefore calls upon the international community to strengthen accountability mechanisms, protect the fundamental rights of Afghan women and girls, support civil society, and ensure the continued delivery of humanitarian assistance. Through principled dialogue, international cooperation, and a firm commitment to universal human rights, the Human Rights Council can contribute to a future in which the dignity, equality, and freedoms of all Afghan people are respected and protected.