**COUNTRY:** DOMINION OF CANADA

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

**AGENDA:** Promoting the Role of Women and Youth in Government with Special Emphasis on Pandemic.

In accordance with its multi-year programme of work for 2001-2006, the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) will consider **“Equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels”** as one of two thematic issues during its fiftieth session in 2006.

The theme for International Women’s Day, 8 March 2021 was announced as**: “Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world.”** This theme seeks to draw attention to and celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also aligned with the priority theme of the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, “Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.”

**Canada's Feminist Foreign Policy**: In June 2017, Justin Trudeau’s Liberal government introduced its Feminist International Assistance Policy (FIAP). The FIAP takes an explicitly feminist approach to Canada’s foreign policy and international development to target gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Since 2015, the federal government of Canada has worked to advance gender equality in leadership roles and at all levels of decision-making, including making meaningful changes to government processes and introducing supports for women seeking leadership positions. Leadership and Democratic Participation Women make up 48 per cent of the Canadian workforce but hold approximately 23 per cent of the board seats in Canada’s Financial Post 500 companies.

The federal government is committed to improving diversity in leadership and democratic participation and will continue to work on improving gender equality in leadership roles and democratic participation. This includes: More women in senior management positions, and more diversity in senior leadership positions; increased opportunities for women to start and grow their businesses, and succeed on a global scale. In Canada, seven of the 14 provincial and national chief medical officers and public health officers are women, including those in some of the most successful provinces when it comes to flattening the COVID-19 curve. In 2017, Canada launched its Feminist International Assistance Policy and set ambitious targets for integrating and targeting gender equality in its international assistance efforts. Canada’s Feminist International Assistance Policy recognizes that supporting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is the best way to build a more peaceful, more inclusive and more prosperous world.

Canada’s support to UN Women’s work in the African region has enabled the improvement of legislative practices and frameworks to promote gender balance in politics and increase the effective participation of women as political leaders at local, national, and regional levels in countries like Guinea, Liberia, and Nigeria.

**DELEGATE:**

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GRADE 9,

ADARSH VIDYA KENDRA.