

**POSITION PAPER**

* **NAME OF THE DELEGATE**: Prabhjeet Kaur
* **COMMITTEE**: United Nations Commission on The Status of Women
* **COUNTRY**: The Republic of Turkey
* **AGENDA**: Tackling gender disparities and enhancing women’s involvement in STEM fields.
* The Republic of Turkey recognizes the vital role women play in the fields of scientific and technological advancements. We are dedicated to dismantling the gender barriers that restrict women's participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields. Turkey acknowledges its own challenges in this domain and welcomes international collaboration to create a more equitable and inclusive STEM environment for women.
* Turkey has undertaken several initiatives to bridge the gender gap in STEM. We prioritize promoting STEM education for girls at all levels, fostering an interest in these fields from a young age. This includes implementing engaging programs and curriculums that showcase the exciting applications of STEM subjects. Additionally, we are committed to enacting policies that encourage women to pursue STEM careers. This involves providing scholarships, mentorship programs, and flexible work arrangements to address the specific needs of female students and professionals.
* However, Turkey acknowledges that cultural norms can be deeply ingrained. Societal biases often steer girls towards traditionally "feminine" fields, discouraging them from pursuing STEM education and careers. The lack of prominent female role models in STEM further deters young girls from considering these paths. Additionally, rigid work structures can create challenges for women, particularly those with families, to excel in demanding STEM careers. Balancing work and personal life become a significant hurdle, hindering their advancement.
* To address these challenges, Turkey advocates for international collaboration on multiple fronts. By breaking down stereotypes and highlighting the diverse and fulfilling opportunities STEM careers offer for women, we can dismantle societal barriers and inspire future generations, encouraging collaboration between government, academia, and the private sector can create a powerful force for change. Public-private partnerships can pave the way for increased investment in research and development opportunities specifically designed to empower women in STEM fields.
* The Republic of Turkey is firmly committed to achieving gender equality in STEM fields. We believe that international cooperation is essential to dismantle barriers and empower women to become future leaders in science and technology. By working together, we can create a world where women can thrive and contribute their full potential to progress and innovation.