



Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Republic of the Congo

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Culturally diverse, the Republic of the Congo has been facing barbarous conflicts since its colonization. Despite the severe past and its vestiges in the present, the Congo-Brazzaville is determined to not let the next congolese generation to face the same atrocities that the senior citizens in the nation have confronted. The Republic of the Congo is glad to take part in this meeting, which was established as a priority considering the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and invites its partners and any countries that share the same purposes to cooperate, so that both topics will be discussed in a more effective, productive and beneficial way.

Access to Education

The first woman to take part in the Congolese government was Madame Emilie Manima in 1976 and the number of graduate women has been increasing since then. Unfortunately, the lack of representation of female interests reveals the patriarchal society heritage: in 2021, less than 50% of the composition of the state offices and other institutions of the Republic were women. Although the country has a high literacy mark (83%) considering the Sub-Saharan African development, a decline of 2% of Congolese girls attending school was noticed, while 1.5% of the Congolese boys had to drop out of their studies, both due to the armed conflicts in 1990. Furthermore, rural areas suffer from a lack of structure and transportation, not enabling equal access to education. Also, as a result of prejudice and the conservative traditions, girls are expected to learn about domestic affairs, leading them to early marriage and pregnancy and sexual and physical abuses.

The Republic of the Congo believes that education is the main track to the development of the country. In this way, guaranteeing education to women means integrating the country into the world's economy and opening doors to gender equality, creating a gender effect on multiple areas, such as remedying poverty; preventing abuses of human rights of women and girls; and creating qualified professionals to the labor market.

In the light of the reported problems and recognizing the importance of gender equality, the Republic of the Congo is compromised to assure women their rightful places, guaranteeing opportunities and safety while studying and pathing not only their careers, but their lives. The Congo-Brazzaville proposes the promotion of consciousness about women's education to the Congolese families, advising about parental responsibility on their children's education. Considering the great results from 2021's experience, the International Women's Day's month should be dedicated every year to promote public debates about women's empowerment and acknowledgment.

Following the National Constitution and the Congolese compromises with the international community promoted by UNICEF, UNESCO, and other cooperation agencies, it is necessary that any resolution will assure that the rural areas will be better assisted and

the public transportation (but also the road's condition) will be improved. It is also vital that educational institutions receive the necessary investments to enable them to offer secure places for women's academic formation; to train qualified educators; and to implement sex education classes, contributing to the development of respect, information and instruction.

Women's Sexual and Reproductive Rights

The Republic of the Congo is worried about the Congolese women's quality of life, since the country faces gender-based violence. Sexual harassment, rape and discrimination are considered crimes, but are common in Brazzaville, being only 10% of this kind of violence reported. Although domestic violence is prohibited with maximum penalties provided by the law, there is no effective enforcement of the legislation, normalizing conjugal rape and violence. As well as information about HPV and AIDS and its proliferation due to polygamy and lack of contraceptives and condoms, sex education is limited to urban areas and is considered as a taboo, contributing to misinformation, unwanted pregnancies, shame and health calamities. Furthermore, according to the Ministry of Health, only 92% of Congolese women in 2020 gave birth safely, since the rural areas are affected by the lack of structure and transportation. This situation is one of the main reasons for maternal deaths, which was estimated in 2017 by WHO as 378 deaths per 100.000 live births. STIs-positive women are segregated even though the law prohibits it, making the individuals live apart from society, just like divorced women and widows, which suffer from all patrimonial, verbal, physical and sexual violence as a result of sexism.

Believing that this topic is connected to education, the Congo-Brazzaville is concerned about the relevance of spreading access to sexual and reproductive health and rights and information about this topic, contributing to the improvement and maintenance of health, freedom and individuality. So that, the Republic of the Congo understands the urge to be more effective when it comes to guaranteeing women's safety and respect, repudiating violence, prejudice and misstatement of scientific data.

Assuming the need for sexual and reproductive health, the Republic of the Congo believes that the improvement of the status of women is essential to develop an equal, safe and prosperous environment, making sure that the human rights of women are respected. Valuing the conservative traditions of the country but believing that health comes above tabus, the Congo-Brazzaville understands that sex education is imperative, as said in the last topic. These classes should be ministered with scientific, educational and informational proposes to avoid sexual violence, STIs proliferation and early pregnancy.

To protect widows, violence victims of any kind and STIs-infected women and men, centers of protection and treatment will be created to make sure these people could integrate into society safely and physically and mentally healthy. Health centers must be established to distribute information, workshops, free contraceptives and condoms, family planning and appropriate professional advice. Also, hospitals must be upgraded and, as proposed in the last topic, the infrastructure of roads must be improved. These institutions will be held by the Congolese government, WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF and NGOs. The Republic of the Congo will also make denouncing harassment and violence more accessible, safe and effective by training its police and competent authorities in order to aid and encourage women to reclaim their rights.