

Delegate: DELEGATE NAME

Country: Argentine Republic

Committee: UN Women

School: Francis W. Parker School

Topic: Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women in Light of the Millennium Development Goals

The Argentine Republic, subsequently referred to as Argentina, is proudly invested in legislatively promoting gender equality and empowering women throughout the nation with the assistance of international development goals and is somewhat disturbed by the lack of progress in certain countries regarding these topics, but remains focused on Argentinian gender equality rather than directly involving itself with other sovereign nations.

Argentina has managed to achieve many of the millennium development goals on the topic of gender. The school life expectancy for girls in Argentina is two years higher than boys, surpassing the goal of an equal ratio between the two genders, men and women in Argentina both have a literacy rate of 98%, and 33.3% of Senators were female as of 2001, one of the highest percentages in the international community.^{1,2} Complete gender equality has not been realized as of now in Argentina, however, and there is more work to be done. Women in Argentina have power that women in other nations have not been afforded, such as important positions in government, and yet still lack some of the basic rights that gender equality demands. Violence against women was only recently addressed in 2009 and when marital rights and child custody are involved, women have just begun to realize equality, illustrating the work yet to be done.³

Dedication to gender equality and empowerment of women in Argentina has continued to increase in recent years. In 2015, the government of Argentina paired with the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women to host a global conference titled “Women and Social Inclusion from Beijing to Post-2015”.⁴ Given the success of the conference, Argentina is willing to host it again, perhaps even on an annual basis with proper funding. Within these future conferences, extra support for struggling countries will be found, financial and otherwise. Concurrently, as an aspiring global power, Argentina will provide individual support for nations who request it, but will not engage with nations that choose to continually promote the inequity of genders for these nations may only be aggravated by international intervention and thus might push their people further towards an extreme position. With nations who have achieved the current millennium development goals for gender, another set of goals must be written quickly to maintain momentum and promote progression. With this approach that aims to guide rather than force, Argentina hopes that gender equality and the empowerment of women will be realized.

¹ "The World Factbook: ARGENTINA." Central Intelligence Agency. Central Intelligence Agency, 12 Jan. 2017. Web. 19 Feb. 2017.

² Lubertino, María José. "Pioneering Quotas: The Argentine Experience and Beyond." International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (n.d.): n. pag. Quota Project. International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, 23-24 Feb. 2003. Web. 18 Feb. 2017.

³ Vega, Soledad. "A Century of Struggles: Gender Equality in Argentina." The Argentina Independent. The Argentina Independent, 1 Mar. 2013. Web. 23 Feb. 2017.

⁴ Offerdahl, Kate. "UNDP, UN Women, Argentina Hold Global Conference for Women and Social Inclusion." SDG Knowledge Hub. International Institute for Sustainable Development, 13 May 2015. Web. 23 Feb. 2017.