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Advancement of women

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2024

[on the report of the Third Committee ([A/79/451](#), para. 65)]

79/153. Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [53/117](#) of 9 December 1998, [56/128](#) of 19 December 2001, [67/146](#) of 20 December 2012, [68/146](#) of 18 December 2013, [69/150](#) of 18 December 2014, [71/168](#) of 19 December 2016, [73/149](#) of 17 December 2018, [75/160](#) of 16 December 2020 and [77/195](#) of 15 December 2022, Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 51/2 of 9 March 2007,¹ 52/2 of 7 March 2008² and 54/7 of 12 March 2010³ and Human Rights Council resolutions [27/22](#) of 26 September 2014,⁴ [32/21](#) of 1 July 2016,⁵ [38/6](#) of 2 July 2018,⁶ [44/16](#) of 17 July 2020⁷ and [50/16](#) of 8 July 2022⁸ and all relevant agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁹

¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 7 (E/2007/27)*, chap. I, sect. D.

² Ibid., 2008, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2008/27)*, chap. I, sect. D.

³ Ibid., 2010, *Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum ([E/2010/27](#) and [E/2010/27/Corr.1](#)), chap. I, sect. D.

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigenda ([A/69/53/Add.1](#), [A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.1](#) and [A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.2](#)), chap. IV, sect. A.

⁵ Ibid., *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/71/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

⁶ Ibid., *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/73/53)*, chap. VI, sect. A.

⁷ Ibid., *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/75/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

⁸ Ibid., *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/77/53)*, chap. VIII, sect. A.

⁹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).



Reaffirming also that the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹⁰ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women¹¹ and all relevant conventions, together with the optional protocols thereto, as appropriate, constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls,

Reaffirming further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,¹² which reaffirms that all human rights, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, the Beijing Declaration¹³ and Platform for Action,¹⁴ the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,¹⁵ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development¹⁶ and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development¹⁷ and their 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹⁸ and the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the 2005 World Summit¹⁹ and reiterated in Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”, and those made in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,²⁰

Recognizing the role of local, national, regional, subregional and international instruments and mechanisms in the prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation, where they exist,

Recalling the undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation contained in Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which mark a significant milestone towards the elimination and ending of female genital mutilation,

Recalling also the decision of the African Union, adopted in Malabo on 1 July 2011, to support the adoption by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session of a resolution banning female genital mutilation,

Recognizing that female genital mutilation constitutes irreparable, irreversible harm and an act of violence against women and girls that impairs and undermines the enjoyment of their human rights, and recognizing also that it affects many women and girls who are at risk of being subjected to the practice throughout the world, which is an impediment to the full achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls,

Reaffirming that female genital mutilation is a harmful practice and a serious and life-threatening form of violence, constituting a serious threat to the dignity,

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹² [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

¹³ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, annex II.

¹⁵ Resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

¹⁶ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹⁷ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

¹⁸ Resolution [55/2](#).

¹⁹ See resolution [60/1](#).

²⁰ Resolution [70/1](#).

health and well-being of women and girls, including their physical, mental, sexual and reproductive, and maternal health, as well as to the health of children, including infants and adolescents, that it has no documented health benefits, that it may give rise to possible adverse obstetric, prenatal and post-partum outcomes and may increase vulnerability to hepatitis C, tetanus, sepsis, urine retention and ulceration, as well as to fatal consequences for the mother and child, and that the elimination of this harmful practice can be achieved as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society, including women and men, girls and boys, families, communities, religious leaders and local community and traditional leaders,

Recognizing that female genital mutilation is inherently linked to deep-rooted harmful stereotypes, negative social norms, perceptions and customs on the part of both women and men that threaten the physical and psychological integrity of women and girls, and that are obstacles to their full enjoyment of human rights, and acknowledging in this regard that awareness-raising is critical,

Recognizing also that female genital mutilation is exacerbated in humanitarian situations owing to several factors, including displacement or forced displacement and breakdown of law and State authority or social support networks, including lack of essential specialized and adequate protection and healthcare services,

Recognizing further that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has disrupted prevention programmes aimed at eliminating female genital mutilation and other harmful practices, increased the vulnerability of girls and women, especially those at risk of undergoing female genital mutilation, and further exacerbated existing gender inequality, economic disparities and health risks faced by women and girls,

Welcoming the increased national, regional and international efforts and the political commitment at the highest levels, which are critical to successfully eradicating female genital mutilation,

Deeply concerned that, despite the national, regional and international efforts, the practice of female genital mutilation persists in all parts of the world, has interlinkages with other harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and remains underreported, particularly at the local level, and that the use of new methods, such as its medicalization and cross-border practice, is increasing,

Recognizing that decades of efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation are undermined by cross-border and transnational practices, which occur when girls or women are taken across national borders to countries that have not outlawed this harmful practice or do not enforce existing criminal laws,

Recognizing also that negative discriminatory and stereotypical attitudes and behaviours, on the part of both women and men, have direct implications for the status and treatment of women and girls, and that such negative stereotypes impede the implementation of legislative and normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex,

Stressing that men and boys play an important role in the acceleration of progress in preventing and eliminating harmful practices such as female genital mutilation by being agents of change,

Recognizing that the campaign of the Secretary-General entitled “UNiTE to End Violence against Women” and the Global Database on Violence against Women have contributed to addressing the elimination of female genital mutilation,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations system to end female genital mutilation, in particular the commitment of 10 United Nations entities,²¹ announced in their joint inter-agency statement of 27 February 2008 on eliminating female genital mutilation, and taking note with appreciation of the Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Delivering the Global Promise to End Female Genital Mutilation by 2030 of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, to accelerate the elimination of the practice,

Commending the continued efforts and actions undertaken by States, individually and collectively, regional organizations and United Nations agencies for the elimination of female genital mutilation, as well as the implementation of its resolution [77/195](#),

Noting with appreciation the recent progress made globally towards ending female genital mutilation, which has become less common in countries where it was once universal and in countries where it occurred in only a few communities, while expressing deep concern that, despite this global trend, progress is uneven and not fast enough to achieve the target of eliminating female genital mutilation by 2030 and the promise to leave no one behind,

Underscoring the importance of eliminating female genital mutilation as a contribution to the implementation of the range of Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 5.3,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,²²

Deeply concerned that a tremendous gap in resources continues to exist and that the shortfall in funding has severely limited the scope and pace of programmes and activities for the elimination of female genital mutilation,

1. *Stresses* that the gender equality and empowerment of women and girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health, and calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, as well as their commitments to implementing the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,²³ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and of the special session of the General Assembly on children;²⁴

2. *Condemns* all forms of violence and harmful practices that affect women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, and urges States to take all necessary measures in accordance with their obligations under applicable international human rights law, including legislative and policy measures, to prohibit female genital mutilation and to protect women and girls, including from cross-border and other affected communities;

²¹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations Development Programme, Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Population Fund, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Fund for Women and World Health Organization.

²² [A/79/514](#).

²³ Resolution [48/104](#).

²⁴ Resolution [S-27/2](#), annex.

3. *Calls upon* States to place a stronger focus on the development and implementation of comprehensive prevention strategies, including the intensification of educational campaigns, awareness-raising and formal and non-formal education and training in order to promote the direct engagement of girls and boys, women and men and to ensure that all key actors, including government officials, law enforcement and judicial personnel, immigration officials, parliamentarians, healthcare providers, practitioners, civil society, the private sector, community and religious leaders, teachers, employers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, legal guardians, families and communities, work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices, in particular female genital mutilation, that negatively affect women and girls, and emphasizes the importance of adopting a non-stigmatization approach in all prevention interventions;

4. *Also calls upon* States to develop information and awareness-raising campaigns and programmes to systematically reach and engage the general public, especially relevant professionals, in particular schoolteachers, families, communities, civil society representatives, including women's and girl-led organizations and religious and traditional leaders, including through the traditional and non-traditional media, featuring television and radio discussions and information and communications technology, about the harmful effects of female genital mutilation and the fact that this practice still exists and about national and international levels of support for the elimination of female genital mutilation, with a view to helping to change existing negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours that condone and justify gender inequality, all forms of violence against women and girls and harmful practices, including female genital mutilation;

5. *Further calls upon* States to provide the resources necessary to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes, to mobilize girls and women and boys and men to take an active part in developing preventive and elimination programmes to address harmful practices, especially female genital mutilation, to engage families, local community and religious leaders, educational institutions, the media and civil society and to provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end discriminatory social norms and practices, and calls upon the international community to support States in these efforts;

6. *Encourages* States to ensure that female genital mutilation-related prevention, protection and care services are mainstreamed in humanitarian and emergency preparedness and response plans and integrated in coordination mechanisms and remote service delivery as part of the continuum of essential services, including healthcare services for all women and girls across the humanitarian-development nexus, with particular attention to the protection needs of women and girls living in cross-border communities;

7. *Urges* States to complement punitive measures with awareness-raising and educational activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the elimination of female genital mutilation, and also urges States to protect and support women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilation and those who are at risk in order to assist them, including by developing social, legal and psychological support services and care and appropriate remedies, and to ensure access to healthcare services, including for sexual and reproductive health, in order to improve their health and well-being;

8. *Also urges* States to condemn all harmful practices that affect women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, whether committed within or outside a medical institution, to take all measures necessary, including through educational campaigns and by enacting and enforcing legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation, to protect women and girls from this act of violence, to hold perpetrators

to account and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at the national and local levels, where applicable, in order to monitor progress;

9. *Calls upon* States to address the medicalization of female genital mutilation and to encourage professional associations and trade unions of health service providers to adopt internal disciplinary rules prohibiting their members from engaging in the harmful practice of female genital mutilation;

10. *Urges* States to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes, sensitive to the needs of women and girls, by reviewing and revising, as appropriate, school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance of violence against girls or of harmful practices, including female genital mutilation, placing special emphasis on education about the harmful effects of female genital mutilation, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls into education and training curricula at all levels;

11. *Also urges* States to ensure the protection of, and provision of support to, women and girls subjected to or at risk of female genital mutilation, including cross-border and transnational female genital mutilation, and to address the underlying systemic and structural causes in which this harmful practice is rooted by establishing regional, national and multisectoral prevention and response strategies that respond to the needs of women and girls, including supportive legislation and policies, programmes and budgetary measures based on integrated, coordinated and collective approaches combining political commitment, civil society engagement and accountability at the regional, national, local and community levels;

12. *Further urges* States to ensure that the protection of and provision of support to women and girls subject to, or at risk of, female genital mutilation are an integral part of policies and programmes that address the practice, and to provide women and girls with coordinated, specialized, accessible and quality multisectoral prevention and response, including education, as well as legal, psychological, healthcare and social services, provided by qualified personnel, consistent with the guidelines of medical ethics;

13. *Urges* States to put in place effective regional cooperation and coordination mechanisms to prevent and eliminate cross-border and transnational female genital mutilation and to ensure their sustainability and effectiveness by providing them with adequate financial resources and capacities so that they can oversee the implementation of comprehensive and multisectoral regional, national and subnational plans, strategies, policies and programmes, with the active engagement and participation of relevant actors, including international organizations, regional and international networks of parliamentarians, national human rights institutions, professional associations, including of healthcare providers, civil society organizations, including human rights groups, women's human rights organizations and youth-led organizations, as well as traditional and religious leaders and faith-based organizations, men and boys, parents, legal guardians and family members, victims and survivors;

14. *Calls upon* States to ensure that national action plans and strategies on the elimination of female genital mutilation are comprehensive and multidisciplinary in scope and that they are adequately financed, include projected timelines for goals and incorporate clear targets and indicators for the effective monitoring, impact assessment and coordination of programmes among all relevant stakeholders and promote their participation, including the participation of affected women and girls, practising communities and non-governmental organizations, in the development, implementation and evaluation of such plans and strategies;

15. *Urges* States to take, within the general framework of integration policies and in consultation with affected communities, effective and specific targeted measures for refugee, asylum-seeker, migrant and internally displaced women and girls, their families and their communities in order to protect women and girls everywhere from female genital mutilation, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence;

16. *Also urges* States to pursue a comprehensive, culturally sensitive, systematic approach that incorporates a social perspective and is based on human rights and gender equality in providing education and training to families, local community leaders and members of all professions relevant to the protection and empowerment of women and girls in order to increase awareness of and commitment to the elimination of female genital mutilation;

17. *Further urges* States to identify and allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of policies and programmes and legislative frameworks aimed at eliminating female genital mutilation, in particular measures involving information and communications technologies to facilitate learning and knowledge-sharing;

18. *Calls upon* States to develop, support and implement comprehensive and integrated strategies and approaches for the prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation, including, where appropriate, by adopting or amending legislation to criminalize the practice and the training of social workers, medical personnel, community and religious leaders, humanitarian workers and other relevant professionals, and to ensure that they provide competent, supportive services and care to all women and girls who are at risk of or who have undergone female genital mutilation and encourage them to report to the appropriate authorities cases in which they believe that women or girls are at risk;

19. *Also calls upon* States to harmonize legislation and policies between States where cross-border and transnational female genital mutilation occurs, in addition to supporting the implementation of laws criminalizing female genital mutilation, increasing cooperation between States and civil society at national borders, conducting media campaigns promoting cross-border prevention among vulnerable border communities and introducing enhanced monitoring systems across borders on female genital mutilation cases;

20. *Further calls upon* States to support, as part of a comprehensive approach to eliminate female genital mutilation, programmes that engage local community practitioners of female genital mutilation in community-based initiatives for the elimination of the practice, including, where relevant, the identification and the provision by communities of alternative livelihoods for them;

21. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society and international financial institutions to continue to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources and technical assistance, targeted comprehensive programmes that address the needs and priorities of women and girls at risk of or subjected to female genital mutilation;

22. *Calls upon* the international community and all Member States to strongly support, including through increased financial support, organizations and programmes that support women and girls affected by or at risk of female genital mutilation, including the fourth phase of the Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation: Delivering the Global Promise to End Female Genital Mutilation by 2030 of the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, which will run until 2030, as well as national programmes focused on the elimination of female genital mutilation;

23. *Stresses* that progress has been made in eliminating female genital mutilation in a number of countries using a common coordinated approach that promotes positive social change at the community, national, regional and international levels, and recalls the goal set out in the United Nations inter-agency statement that female genital mutilation is to be eliminated within a generation, with some of the main achievements being obtained by 2030, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals;

24. *Encourages* men and boys to take an active part and to become strategic partners of women and girls and their allies in efforts, including through intergenerational dialogue, to eliminate violence, discrimination and harmful practices against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

25. *Calls upon* States to engage key stakeholders, in a coordinated manner, including various sectors of government and civil society organizations, along with the support, upon request, of United Nations entities, in developing a multidisciplinary approach to both preventing and responding to female genital mutilation and to adopt laws and policies, where appropriate, providing high-quality, multisectoral interventions for girls and women who have been subject to female genital mutilation, as well as robust prevention strategies, taking into consideration those girls and women who are most vulnerable;

26. *Calls upon* States, the United Nations system, civil society and all stakeholders to continue to observe 6 February as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation and to use the day to enhance awareness-raising campaigns and to take concrete actions against female genital mutilation;

27. *Calls upon* States to improve the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative disaggregated data, where appropriate, and to collaborate with existing data collection systems, which are crucial for evidence-based legal and policy development, programme design and implementation and the monitoring of the elimination of female genital mutilation;

28. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data on female genital mutilation, which is underdocumented and underreported, particularly in humanitarian and emergency situations, to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating this practice and to reinforce the sharing of good practices relating to the prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

29. *Urges* the international community to fulfil its commitment in supporting developing countries in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and data systems to ensure access to high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress, in order, inter alia, to inform policy and programming, as well as to monitor progress in the elimination of female genital mutilation;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls against female genital mutilation in their country programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with national priorities, in order to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

31. *Renews its request* to the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its eighty-first session, an in-depth, multidisciplinary, evidence-based report, with accurate and updated data, an analysis of root causes, progress made to date, challenges and needs and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice, on the basis of updated information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders.

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