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Agenda item 66 (a)

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Zambia:* draft resolution

The girl child

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 60/141 of 16 December 2005 and all relevant resolutions, including the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, in particular those relevant to the girl child,

Reaffirming the equal rights of women and men as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming all human rights and other instruments relevant to the rights of the child, in particular the girl child, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,² the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,³ and all their optional protocols,

Reaffirming the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the commitments relevant to the girl child contained in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁴

Reaffirming also the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled “A world fit for children”,⁵ the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS adopted at the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, entitled “Global Crisis — Global Action”,⁶ and the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS,⁷

* On behalf of the Southern African Development Community.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

³ Resolution 61/106, annex.

⁴ See resolution 60/1.

⁵ Resolution S-27/2, annex.

⁶ Resolution S-26/2, annex.

⁷ Resolution 60/262, annex.



Reaffirming further all other relevant outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences relevant to the girl child, as well as their five- and ten-year reviews, including the Beijing Declaration⁸ and Platform for Action⁹ adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,¹⁰ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development¹¹ and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,¹² and welcoming the declaration adopted in 2005 by the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session,¹³

Reaffirming the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum, in 2000,¹⁴

Recognizing that girl children are more vulnerable and the need to achieve gender equality to ensure a just and equitable world for girls, including through partnering with men and boys as an important strategy for advancing the rights of the girl child,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child, including those with disabilities, and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access for girls to education, nutrition and physical and mental health care and in girls enjoying fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence than boys and often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and abuse and to violence and harmful practices, such as female infanticide, rape, incest, early marriage, forced marriage, prenatal sex selection and female genital mutilation,

Deeply concerned also that female genital mutilation is an irreparable, irreversible harmful practice that affects more than one hundred and thirty million women and girls alive today and that each year a further two million girls are at risk of undergoing the harmful procedure,

Deeply concerned also that, in situations of poverty, war and armed conflict, girl children are among those most affected and furthermore become the victims of rape, sexual violence and abuse, and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, which have a serious impact on the quality of their lives and leave them open to further discrimination, violence and neglect, limiting their potential for full development,

Emphasizing that increased access to education, including in the areas of sexual and reproductive health, for young people, especially girls, dramatically

⁸ *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.

⁹ *Ibid.*, annex II.

¹⁰ Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

¹¹ *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.

¹² *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.

¹³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁴ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Final Report of the World Education Forum, Dakar, Senegal, 26-28 April 2000* (Paris, 2000).

lowers their vulnerability to preventable diseases, in particular HIV/AIDS infection and sexually transmitted diseases,

Concerned by the increasing number of child-headed households, in particular those headed by orphan girls, including those orphaned by the HIV/AIDS pandemic,

Deeply concerned that early childbearing and limited access to sexual and reproductive health care, including in the area of emergency obstetric care, causes high levels of obstetric fistula and maternal mortality and morbidity,

Convinced that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance reveal themselves in a differentiated manner for women and girls and can be among the factors leading to a deterioration in their living conditions, poverty, violence, multiple forms of discrimination and limitation or denial of their human rights,

1. *Stresses* the need for full and urgent implementation of the rights of the girl child as guaranteed to her under all human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,² the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and all their optional protocols, and urges States to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to these human rights instruments;

2. *Urges* all States to take all necessary measures and to institute legal reforms to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by the girl child of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including taking measures to remove barriers and any other discriminatory obstacles which hinder the girl child who is living with disabilities, and to take effective action against violations of those rights and freedoms;

3. *Urges* all Governments and the United Nations system to strengthen efforts bilaterally and with international organizations and private-sector donors in order to achieve the goals of the World Education Forum,¹⁴ in particular that of eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education by 2005, which have not been fully met, and to implement the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative as a means of reaching this goal, and further calls for the implementation of and reaffirms the commitments contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁴ particularly those related to education;

4. *Calls upon* all States to take measures to address the obstacles that continue to affect the achievement of the goals set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action,⁹ as contained in paragraph 33 of the further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹⁵ where appropriate, including the strengthening of national mechanisms to implement policies and programmes for the girl child and, in some cases, to enhance coordination among responsible institutions for the realization of the human rights of girls, as indicated in the further actions and initiatives;

5. *Stresses* the importance of a substantive assessment of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action⁹ with a life-cycle perspective so as to identify gaps and obstacles in the implementation process and to develop further actions for the achievement of the goals of the Platform for Action;

¹⁵ Resolution S-23/2, annex.

6. *Calls upon* all States and international and non-governmental organizations, individually and collectively, to implement further the Beijing Platform for Action,¹⁰ in particular the strategic objectives relating to the girl child, and the further actions and initiatives,¹⁵ and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in order to achieve the goals and strategic objectives and actions set out in the Beijing Declaration⁹ and Platform for Action;¹⁰

7. *Urges* all States to promote gender equality and equal access to basic social services, such as education, nutrition, health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, vaccinations and protection from diseases representing the major causes of mortality, and to mainstream a gender perspective in all development policies and programmes relating to the girl child;

8. *Also urges* all States to enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence and exploitation, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, trafficking and forced migration, forced labour, and early and forced marriage, and to develop age-appropriate safe and confidential programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence and discrimination;

9. *Urges* States to formulate comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, which should be widely disseminated and should provide targets and timetables for implementation, as well as effective domestic enforcement procedures through the establishment of monitoring mechanisms involving all parties concerned, including consultations with women's organizations, giving attention to the recommendations relating to the girl child of the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and on trafficking in persons, especially women and children;

10. *Urges* States to ensure that the right of children to express themselves and participate in all matters affecting them, in accordance with their age and maturity, is fully and equally enjoyed by girls;

11. *Recognizes* that a considerable number of vulnerable girl children, including orphans, children living on the street, internally displaced and refugee children, migrant children, children affected by trafficking and sexual and economic exploitation, children who are incarcerated, and children living without parental support, and urges States to take appropriate measures to address the needs of such children by implementing national policies and strategies to build and strengthen governmental, family and community capacities to provide a supportive environment for such children, including by providing appropriate counselling and psychosocial support, and ensuring their enrolment in school and access to shelter, good nutrition and health and social services on an equal basis with other children;

12. *Urges* all States and the international community to respect, protect and promote the rights of the girl child in pre-conflict, conflict and post-conflict situations, and further urges States to take special measures for the protection of girls, in particular to protect them from sexually transmitted diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, gender-based violence, including rape and sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation, torture, abduction and forced labour, refugee and displaced girls, in the

delivery of humanitarian assistance and disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation assistance and reintegration processes;

13. *Deplores* all the cases of sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children, especially girls, in humanitarian crises, including those cases involving humanitarian workers and peacekeepers, and calls upon States and relevant organizations of the United Nations to take effective measures to address gender-based violence in humanitarian emergencies and to make possible all efforts to ensure that their laws and institutions are adequate to prevent, promptly investigate and prosecute acts of gender-based violence;

14. *Calls upon* Governments, civil society, including the media, and non-governmental organizations to promote human rights education and full respect for and the enjoyment of the human rights of the girl child, inter alia through the translation, production and dissemination of age-appropriate and gender-sensitive information material on those rights to all sectors of society, in particular to children;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, individually and collectively, in particular the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Labour Organization, take into account the rights and the particular needs of the girl child in country programmes of cooperation in accordance with national priorities, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

16. *Requests* all human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council to adopt regularly and systematically a gender perspective in the implementation of their mandates and to include in their reports information on the qualitative analysis of violations of the human rights of women and girls, and encourages the strengthening of cooperation and coordination in that regard;

17. *Requests* States to ensure that, in all policies and programmes designed to provide comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support, particular attention and support is given to the girl child at risk, infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS, including pregnant girls and young and adolescent mothers, as part of the global effort to scale up significantly towards achieving the goal of universal access to comprehensive prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010;

18. *Urges* States and the international community to dramatically increase resources at all levels, particularly in the education and health sectors, to enable young people, especially girls, to gain the knowledge, attitudes and skills that they need to prevent HIV/AIDS and to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health;

19. *Calls upon* the international community, the relevant United Nations entities and civil society to actively support, through the allocation of increased financial resources, targeted innovative programmes that address ending female genital mutilation, and for developing and providing education programmes and

sensitization workshops on the dire consequences on the health of the girl of this harmful practice, and to provide for those who perform the harmful procedure training programmes to adopt an alternate profession;

20. *Calls upon* States and the international community, to assist including by the allocation of adequate resources, national efforts to strengthen the capacity of health systems to provide essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat those cases that occur by providing a continuum of services, including family planning, antenatal care, skilled birth attendants, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care to adolescent girls, including those living in poverty, and in or to under-served rural areas where obstetric fistula is most common;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including an emphasis on ending female genital mutilation, using information provided by Member States, the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations, with a view to assessing the impact of the present resolution on the well-being of the girl child.
