

**Forum:** ECOSOC

**Topic:** Implementing measures to eradicate the practice of female genital mutilation

**Main submitter:** South Africa

**Signatories:** China, South Korea, Poland, Kenya, Ghana, Colombia, Bahrain, USA, DPRK, Spain, Russia, Serbia.

*ECOSOC,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 73/149 of 17 December 2018, on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation, and all other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women on measures to eliminate traditional practices that are detrimental to women's and girls' enjoyment of human rights, as well as Human Rights Council resolution 38/6 of 5 July 2018 on the elimination of female genital mutilation and other Council resolutions on the same topic,

*Further recalling* the commitment made by States to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

*Recognizing* that all harmful practices, including female genital mutilation, when perpetrated against female children, have particular detrimental consequences on their health and growth, and recalling in that regard the need to guarantee the right of girl children to be free from all forms of violence,

*Deeply concerned* that, despite increased national, regional and international efforts, the harmful practice of female genital mutilation, like many other harmful practices, persists in all parts of the world, that it is exacerbated in humanitarian situations, armed conflicts, pandemics and other crises, and that new forms, such as medicalization and cross-border practice, are emerging,

*Further recognizing* that the prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation is a national development, human rights and public health priority, thereby requiring a comprehensive and multisectoral approach based on States' obligations under international human rights law and underpinned by the principles of, inter alia, accountability, participation, transparency, empowerment, sustainability, equality and non-discrimination, and international cooperation,

*Considering* that holistic strategies to prevent and eliminate female genital mutilation must be mainstreamed and coordinated both vertically and horizontally; and that horizontal coordination requires the joint participation of organizations across sectors, including education, health, justice, social welfare, law enforcement, immigration and asylum, and communications and media, while vertical coordination brings together stakeholders at the national, subnational and local levels, including, inter alia, parliamentarians, national human rights institutions, traditional community leaders and religious authorities, women and girls, parents, legal guardians and families, health-care providers, civil society, human rights groups, youth organizations and men and boys,

*Reaffirming* the obligations and commitments of States to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls and to prevent and eliminate the practice of female

genital mutilation, and emphasizing in this regard the specific role of the different departments of government, the legislative branch and the judiciary at the national and subnational levels,

*Bearing in mind* that States have primary responsibility for preventing and eliminating female genital mutilation and for achieving zero tolerance of the practice,

1. *Urges* states to condemn all harmful practices that affect women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, including medical acts performed within or outside of medical institutions, and to take all necessary measures to prohibit female genital mutilation and to protect women and girls from this form of violence;
2. *Encourages* states to put in place national coordination mechanisms to prevent and eliminate female genital mutilation and ensure their sustainability and effectiveness by recognizing, preferably by law, their convening authority and by providing them with adequate financial resources and capacities so that they can oversee the following:
  - a. The implementation of comprehensive and multisectoral strategies, national plans, policies and programmes,
  - b. The mobilization of relevant actors, including girls, women, parents, legal guardians and families, women's organizations, health-care workers, youth groups, human rights groups, religious and traditional leaders, community leaders, men and boys and other members of civil society and national stakeholders as appropriate to participate in the design,
  - c. The implementation and monitoring of national efforts to prevent and end female genital mutilation, and
  - d. The provision of care for women and girls who have undergone female genital mutilation,
3. Urges States to identify and make available adequate and specifically designated resources to prevent and eliminate female genital mutilation across relevant sectors, including health, nutrition, protection, justice, governance and education, in order for the effective implementation of related policies, programmes and legislative frameworks;
4. Calls upon States to take comprehensive, multisectoral and rights-based measures to prevent and eliminate female genital mutilation, by:
  - a. Addressing the root causes of gender inequality that perpetuate female genital mutilation (such as gender stereotypes and the socioeconomic drivers of violence and unequal power dynamics in which women and girls are viewed as subordinate to men and boys) by developing and implementing, inter alia, awareness-raising programmes that provide accurate information about the negative impact of female genital mutilation on women and girls and society at large, such as through social media, the Internet and community communication and dissemination tools,
  - b. Placing special emphasis on formal and informal education, in particular for young people, including girls, and for parents, legal guardians and families, and religious,

traditional and community leaders, about the harmful effects of female genital mutilation and, in particular, encourage men and boys to become agents of change within communities by being more involved in information and awareness campaigns, intergenerational dialogues and peer-education and training programmes, with the full, equal, effective and meaningful participation of women and girls who have been subjected to or are at risk of being subjected to the practice,

- c. Facilitating the creation of safe spaces, online and offline, where girls and women can do the following:
    - i. Connect with peers, mentors, teachers and community leaders,
    - ii. Express themselves,
    - iii. Articulate their aspirations and concerns,
    - iv. Participate meaningfully in decisions affecting their lives,
  - d. Training social workers, teachers, medical personnel, community and religious leaders and relevant professionals, ensuring that they provide competent and supportive services to all women and girls who are at risk of or who have undergone female genital mutilation and encouraging them to report to the appropriate authorities' cases in which they believe that women or girls are at risk,
  - e. Protecting and supporting women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilation and those who are at risk, such as by:
    - i. Developing interdisciplinary, accessible, sustained, and coordinated social, legal and psychological support services and appropriate remedies,
    - ii. Ensuring health-care services, including for mental, sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, are available,
  - f. Conducting specialized awareness and training programmes for health-care providers, including those working with immigrant communities, to achieve the following:
    - i. Address the unique health-care needs of women and girls who have undergone female genital mutilation or other harmful practices
    - ii. Providing specialized training also for professionals within child welfare services and services focused on the rights of women and the education and police and justice sectors, politicians and media personnel working with refugee and migrant girls and women;
5. *Urges* States to take measures to develop and strengthen accountability systems in the context of comprehensive and multisectoral strategies, policies, plans and budgets to prevent and eliminate female genital mutilation, including:
- a. Establishing or strengthening mechanisms to enable safe reporting of cases that are likely to occur or have occurred, and to provide referrals to needed services and accurate gender-sensitive and age-appropriate information about female genital mutilation,
  - b. Systematizing the collection of data on female genital mutilation, disaggregated by, inter alia, age, geographical location and ethnic and migrant status, encourage research, particularly at the university level, transparency, accountability and data sharing by the relevant stakeholders and between countries, use the results of the research to strengthen public information and awareness-raising activities, and measure the effectiveness and impact of existing policies and programmes and the progress made in eliminating female genital mutilation;

6. *Urges* States to implement the commitments made in the context of the most recent global and regional conferences for the elimination of female genital mutilation and to report on progress in meeting these commitments in the context of existing national, regional and international human rights and sustainable development reporting and review processes.