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Human Rights Council

Twenty-seventh session

Agenda item 3

Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council

27/22

Intensifying global efforts and sharing good practices to effectively eliminate female genital mutilation

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 on institution-building of the Council of 18 June 2007,

Recalling further all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Human Rights Council concerning measures with a view to eliminating harmful traditional practices prejudicial to the human rights of women and girls,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 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”, the programme of action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the programme of action of the World Summit for Social Development and their five-, ten- and fifteen-year reviews, and the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the 2005 World Summit and reiterated by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010 entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/146 of 20 December 2012 entitled “Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations” and Human

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Rights Council decision 24/117 of 27 September 2013 entitled “High-level panel on the identification of good practices in combating female genital mutilation”,

Reaffirming that female genital mutilation is a form of discrimination, an act of violence against women and girls and a harmful practice that constitutes a serious threat to their health, including their psychological, sexual and reproductive health, which can increase their vulnerability to HIV and may have adverse obstetric and prenatal outcomes as well as fatal consequences for the mother and the newborn, and that the abandonment of this harmful practice can be achieved as a result of a comprehensive movement that involves all public and private stakeholders in society, including girls and boys, women and men,

Acknowledging the importance of the work undertaken by the United Nations treaty bodies, particularly the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in addressing the practice of female genital mutilation,

Acknowledging also the relevance and importance of regional instruments and mechanisms, including the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, in the prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation,

Recognizing that efforts at the local, national, regional and international levels have led to a decline in the global prevalence of female genital mutilation,

Concerned about the plight of the victims of female genital mutilation and the continuing persistence of the practice, despite these efforts,

Noting with profound concern that the medicalization of this practice will undermine the progress made in eliminating female genital mutilation and achieving zero tolerance of the practice,

Welcoming the growing global consensus regarding the need to take appropriate measures to eliminate female genital mutilation, and understanding that this practice has no relevant religious or cultural basis,

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

Welcoming the holding during the twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council of the high-level panel discussion on the identification of good practices in combating female genital mutilation, and taking note with interest of the summary report thereon, prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,¹

1. *Urges* States to place special emphasis on education, in particular of youth, parents and community leaders, about the harmful effects of female genital mutilation, and especially to encourage men and boys to become more involved in information and awareness campaigns and become agents of change;

2. *Also urges* States to work for better dissemination and implementation of their relevant international human rights obligations and commitments, particularly those relating to the rights of women and girls, including by using outreach tools;

¹ A/HRC/27/36.

3. *Further urges* States to develop and implement, at the national level, policies, programmes, action plans and national legislation for the elimination of female genital mutilation, based on integrated multisectoral, coordinated and collective approaches at all levels, taking into account the empowerment of former practitioners, the principles of human rights, equality between women and men and non-discrimination, to ensure that former practitioners abstain from resuming the exercise of this practice, and in general taking into account the issue of respect for the basic human rights of women and girls, while also working together with religious and traditional leaders;

4. *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;

5. *Stresses* the importance of working with local, regional and national networks to address female genital mutilation, while warning about the risk of shifting the practice from one country to another;

6. *Also stresses* the need to establish synergy between the activities of international, regional and local organizations to provide better support to field programmes, strengthen advocacy and ensure international support for the planning, development and implementation of innovative long-term strategies for the effective elimination of female genital mutilation;

7. *Urges* States to strengthen support to communities, especially those that have developed successful local models to prevent and eliminate female genital mutilation, by encouraging them to design and utilize education programmes, information and awareness-raising tools and to make them accessible to the greatest number of people possible;

8. *Urges* States, international and regional governmental organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify research on the consequences of female genital mutilation, the persistence of the practice and the impact of campaigns and other initiatives to eliminate this scourge;

9. *Urges* the international community to continue and strengthen efforts to share best practices on national and regional legislation, policies, programmes and action plans aimed at preventing and criminalizing the practice, to mobilize resources and to enhance international cooperation in this regard;

10. *Calls upon* States to continue to increase technical and financial assistance for the effective implementation of policies, programmes and action plans to eliminate female genital mutilation at the national, regional and international levels, including by strengthening the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change, and all the other initiatives and activities at the local, regional and international levels aimed at the prevention and elimination of female genital mutilation;

11. *Calls upon* States, the international community and the organizations of the United Nations system to end the medicalization of female genital mutilation, which entails the definition and dissemination of guidelines to medical staff, and to provide, including through clinical guidelines, an adequate response to the chronic health problems suffered by the millions of women and girls who have undergone female genital mutilation and that hinder progress on health in general;

12. *Urges* the international community to keep the issue of the elimination of female genital mutilation on the agenda of development policies, within the framework of the process of developing the post-2015 development agenda;

13. *Encourages* the treaty bodies, in particular the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee against Torture and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, to continue to give the necessary consideration to the question of female genital mutilation;

14. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare, in consultation with States, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the treaty bodies, relevant special procedures, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, a compilation of good practices and major challenges in preventing and eliminating female genital mutilation, and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-ninth session;

15. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*40th meeting
26 September 2014*

[Adopted without a vote.]
