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Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Erwin **Nina** (Albania)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2014, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled:

“Advancement of women:

“(a) Advancement of women;

“(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly”

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 8th to 12th, 16th, 26th, 49th, 51st and 53rd meetings, from 13 to 15, on 17 and 23 October and on 21, 24 and 25 November 2014. An account of the Committee’s discussion is contained in the relevant summary records ([A/C.3/69/SR.8-12](#), 16, 26, 49, 51 and 53).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its fifty-fifth, fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions ([A/69/38](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations ([A/69/211](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women ([A/69/222](#));

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls ([A/69/224](#));



(e) Report of the Secretary-General on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula ([A/69/256](#));

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences ([A/69/368](#));

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the summary report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the panel discussions on gender stereotyping and on women's human rights in the context of the sustainable development agenda ([A/69/369](#));

(h) Letter dated 29 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a summary by the Chair of the World Assembly for Women, held in Tokyo from 12 to 14 September 2014 ([A/69/396](#)).

4. At the 8th meeting, on 13 October, the Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund made introductory statements and responded to questions and comments by the representatives of Switzerland, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Costa Rica, Cameroon, Djibouti and the Plurinational State of Bolivia (see [A/C.3/69/SR.8](#)).

5. At the same meeting, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made an oral report and responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of Switzerland, the European Union, Japan and Algeria, as well as by the observer of the State of Palestine (see [A/C.3/69/SR.8](#)).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/69/L.19](#) and Rev.1

6. At the 26th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of France, on behalf also of the Netherlands, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls" ([A/C.3/69/L.19](#)). Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Bulgaria, Lebanon and Spain joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

7. At its 51st meeting, on 24 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/69/L.19/Rev.1](#)) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.19](#) and Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo and Uruguay.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.19/Rev.1](#) had no programme budget implications.

9. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands made a statement and orally revised draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.19/Rev.1](#) as follows:

(a) In the seventh preambular paragraph, the words “taking note with appreciation of the agreed conclusions on the priority theme” were replaced by the words “and the agreed conclusions on the priority theme”;

(b) In the twentieth preambular paragraph, the words “with appreciation” were deleted after the words “taking note”.

10. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands announced that Albania, Algeria, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Canada, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Gabon, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Liberia, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nauru, the Republic of Moldova, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, Suriname, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Vanuatu had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised. Subsequently, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Nigeria, Samoa, Sierra Leone and Uganda joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

11. Also at its 51st meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.19/Rev.1](#), as orally revised (see para. 34, draft resolution I).

12. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of Malta, Saudi Arabia, the Russian Federation and the Sudan, as well as the observer of the Holy See, made statements (see [A/C.3/69/SR.51](#)).

B. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/69/L.20](#) and Rev.1

13. At the 26th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Senegal, on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula” ([A/C.3/69/L.20](#)), sponsored by Malawi on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States. Albania, Argentina, Georgia, Indonesia, Lebanon and Mongolia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

14. At its 49th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/69/L.20/Rev.1](#)) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.20](#) and Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Iceland, India, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of African States) Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Myanmar, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Serbia, Singapore, Suriname, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Yemen.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

16. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Senegal, on behalf of the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.20/Rev.1](#), orally revised the draft resolution by adding the words “early and forced” before the word “marriage” in the fifth preambular paragraph and in operative paragraphs 1 and 2, and announced that Bangladesh, Belarus, India, Indonesia and the Russian Federation were not sponsors of the draft resolution and that Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uruguay had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Subsequently Andorra, Cyprus, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Turkmenistan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

17. Also at its 49th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.20/Rev.1](#), as orally revised (see para. 34, draft resolution II).

18. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of Italy (on behalf of the European Union) and Costa Rica (on behalf also of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador and Uruguay), as well as the observer of the Holy See, made statements (see [A/C.3/69/SR.49](#)).

C. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/69/L.21](#) and Rev.1

19. At the 26th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of the Philippines introduced a draft resolution entitled “Trafficking in women and girls” ([A/C.3/69/L.21](#)). Subsequently Burkina Faso, Georgia and Indonesia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

20. At its 51st meeting, on 24 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/69/L.21/Rev.1](#)) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.21](#) and Armenia, Chile, Israel, Kazakhstan, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Togo and Uruguay.

21. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications of the draft resolution (see [A/C.3/69/SR.51](#)).

22. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines announced that Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Timor-Leste, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Subsequently Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burundi, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria,

Norway, Panama, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda and Ukraine also joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

23. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.21/Rev.1](#) (see para. 34, draft resolution III).

24. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Sudan made a statement (see [A/C.3/69/SR.51](#)).

D. Draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.22](#)

25. At the 26th meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Burkina Faso, on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations” (AC.3/69/L.22), sponsored by Malawi on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States. Subsequently, Georgia, Kazakhstan and Lebanon joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

“The General Assembly,

“Recalling its resolutions 53/117 of 9 December 1998, 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 67/146 of 20 December 2012 and 68/146 of 18 December 2013, Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 51/2 of 9 March 2007, 52/2 of 7 March 2008 and 54/7 of 12 March 2010 and Human Rights council resolution 27/22 of 24 September 2014,

“Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, together with the Optional Protocols thereto, constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls,

“Reaffirming also 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 5-year, 10-year and 15-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the 2005 World Summit and reiterated in Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled ‘Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals’,

“Recalling 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 contains, inter alia, undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation and marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment 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,

“Recalling further the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session that the Economic and Social Council recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a decision to consider the issue of ending female genital mutilation at its sixty-seventh session under the agenda item entitled ‘Advancement of women’,

“Recognizing that female genital mutilations are an irreparable, irreversible abuse that impacts negatively on the human rights of women and girls, affecting about 100 million to 140 million women and girls worldwide, and that each year an estimated further 3 million girls are at risk of being subjected to the practice throughout the world,

“Reaffirming that female genital mutilations are a harmful practice that constitutes a serious threat to the health of women and girls, 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,

“Concerned about evidence of an increase in the incidence of female genital mutilations being carried out by medical personnel in all regions in which they are practised,

“Recognizing that negative discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and behaviours 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,

“Recognizing also that the campaign of the Secretary-General entitled ‘UNiTE to End Violence against Women’ and the database on violence against women have contributed to addressing the elimination of female genital mutilations,

“Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations system to end female genital mutilations, in particular the commitment of 10 United Nations entities announced in their joint inter-agency statement of 27 February 2008 on eliminating female genital mutilation, as well as the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change, 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 resolution 67/146,

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

“Noting with regret that the Secretary-General did not submit an in-depth multidisciplinary report, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/146, on the root causes of and contributing factors to the practice of female genital mutilations, its prevalence worldwide and its impact on

women and girls, including evidence and data, analysis of progress made to date and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice on the basis of information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders,

“Deeply concerned that, despite the increase in national, regional and international efforts and the focus on the abandonment of female genital mutilations, the practice continues to persist in all regions of the world,

“Deeply concerned also 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 mutilations,

“1. Stresses that the 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 highest attainable standard of mental and physical 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 implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, 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 Assembly on children;

“2. Calls upon States to enhance awareness-raising and formal, non-formal and informal education and training in order to promote the direct engagement of girls and boys, women and men and to ensure that all key actors, Government officials, including law enforcement and judicial personnel, immigration officials, health-care providers, civil society, community and religious leaders, teachers, employers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, families and communities, work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices, in particular all forms of female genital mutilations, that negatively affect girls;

“3. Also calls upon States to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes, to mobilize girls and boys to take an active part in developing preventive and elimination programmes to address harmful practices, especially female genital mutilations, and to engage community and religious leaders, educational institutions, the media and families and provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end discriminatory social practices;

“4. Urges States to condemn all harmful practices that affect women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, whether committed within or outside a medical institution, and to take all necessary measures, including enacting and enforcing legislation, to prohibit female genital mutilations and to protect women and girls from this form of violence, and to end impunity;

“5. Also 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 mutilations, and further urges States

to protect and support women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilations and those at risk, including by developing social and psychological support services and care, and to take measures to improve their health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to assist women and girls who are subjected to the practice;

“6. *Further urges* States to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes by, as appropriate, reviewing and revising school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilations, 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;

“7. *Urges* States to ensure that the protection 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 a coordinated, specialized, accessible quality multisectoral response which includes legal, psychological, health-care and social services;

“8. *Calls upon* States to ensure that national action plans and strategies on the elimination of female genital mutilations are comprehensive and multidisciplinary in scope and incorporate clear targets and indicators for the effective monitoring, impact assessment and coordination of programmes among all stakeholders;

“9. *Urges* States to take, within the general framework of integration policies and in consultation with affected communities, effective and specific targeted measures for refugee women and women migrants and their communities in order to protect girls from female genital mutilations, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence;

“10. *Calls upon* States to develop information and awareness-raising campaigns and programmes to systematically reach the general public, relevant professionals, families and communities, including through the media and featuring television and radio discussions, on the elimination of female genital mutilations;

“11. *Urges* States to pursue a comprehensive, culturally sensitive, systematic approach that incorporates a social perspective and is based on human rights and gender-equality principles 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 mutilations;

“12. *Also urges* States to ensure the national implementation of international and regional commitments and obligations undertaken as States parties to various international instruments protecting the full enjoyment of all human rights and the fundamental freedoms of women and girls;

“13. *Calls upon* States to develop policies and regulations to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at the national and local levels to monitor adherence to and implementation of these legislative frameworks;

“14. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data on all forms of discrimination and violence against girls, especially forms that are underdocumented, such as female genital mutilations, and to develop additional indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating the practice;

“15. *Urges* States to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of policies and programmes and legislative frameworks aimed at eliminating female genital mutilations;

“16. *Calls upon* States to develop, support and implement comprehensive and integrated strategies for the prevention of female genital mutilations, including the training of social workers, medical personnel, community and religious leaders and relevant professionals, and to ensure that they provide competent, supportive services and care to women and girls who are at risk of or who have undergone female genital mutilations, and encourage them to report to the appropriate authorities cases in which they believe women or girls are at risk;

“17. *Also calls upon* States to support, as part of a comprehensive approach to eliminate female genital mutilations, programmes that engage local community practitioners of female genital mutilations in community-based initiatives for the abandonment of the practice, including, where relevant, the identification by communities of alternative livelihoods for them;

“18. *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 mutilations;

“19. *Calls upon* the international community to strongly support, including through increased financial support, a second phase of the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children’s Fund Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change, which is running until 2017, as well as national programmes focused on the elimination of female genital mutilations;

“20. *Stresses* that some progress has been made in combating female genital mutilations 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 mutilations be eliminated within a generation, with some of the main achievements being obtained by 2015, in line with the Millennium Development Goals;

“21. *Encourages* men and boys to take positive initiatives and to work in partnership with women and girls to combat violence and discriminatory practices against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

“22. *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 mutilations;

“23. *Calls upon* States to improve the collection of quantitative and qualitative data, which are crucial for evidence-based legal and policy development, programme design and implementation, and the monitoring of the elimination of female genital mutilation;

“24. *Calls upon* the international community, as it moves towards the post-2015 development framework, to positively consider including the issue of eliminating female genital mutilations in the framework;

“25. *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 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 mutilations in their country programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with national priorities, in order to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

“26. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-first session, an in-depth multidisciplinary report on the root causes of and contributing factors to the practice of female genital mutilations, its prevalence worldwide and its impact on women and girls, including evidence and data, analysis of progress made to date and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice on the basis of information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders.”

26. At the 53rd meeting on 25 November, the representative of Burkina Faso, on behalf of the Group of African States, read out numerous revisions to the draft resolution and announced that Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, El Salvador, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic,

Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Timor-Leste and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

27. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.22](#), as orally revised (see para. 34, draft resolution IV).

28. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Burkina Faso (on behalf of the Group of African States), Italy (on behalf of the European Union) and Norway (on behalf also of Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Sweden and Switzerland) (see [A/C.3/69/SR.53](#)).

E. Draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.67](#)

29. At its 53rd meeting, on 25 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly” ([A/C.3/69/L.67](#)), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations.

30. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

31. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/69/L.67](#) (see para. 34, draft resolution V).

32. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the Vice-Chair of the Committee (Sweden) in her capacity as facilitator of the draft resolution (see [A/C.3/69/SR.53](#)).

F. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

33. At its 53rd meeting, on 25 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the summary report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the panel discussions on gender stereotyping and on women’s human rights in the context of the sustainable development agenda ([A/69/369](#)) (see para. 35).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

34. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007, 63/155 of 18 December 2008, 64/137 of 18 December 2009, 65/187 of 21 December 2010 and 67/144 of 20 December 2012, and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106 (2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security and all relevant Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, including resolutions 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068 (2012) of 19 September 2012 and 2143 (2014) of 7 March 2014,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolutions 17/11 of 17 June 2011, 20/12 of 5 July 2012, 23/25 of 14 June 2013 and 26/15 of 26 June 2014 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and 26/5 of 26 June 2014 on the elimination of discrimination against women,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,² the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,³ the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁴ and the Optional Protocols thereto, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁵ and other international human rights instruments, such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,⁶ and that its elimination is a cross-cutting issue and an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Recalling the rules of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949⁷ and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,⁸

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁴ Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁵ Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁶ Resolution 45/158.

⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

⁸ Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁹ the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,¹⁰ the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹¹ the outcome documents of its review conferences and 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”,¹²

Reaffirming also the declarations adopted at the forty-ninth¹³ and fifty-fourth¹⁴ sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the agreed conclusions on the priority theme “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls” adopted at the fifty-seventh session,¹⁵ and welcoming the attention given to the elimination of violence against women and girls in the agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls,¹⁶

Reaffirming further the international commitments in the field of social development regarding gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development and in the key actions for the further implementation of its Programme of Action, at the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples of 22 September 2014,¹⁷ as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹⁸ at the 2005 World Summit¹⁹ and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,²⁰ and noting the attention paid to the elimination of all forms of violence against women in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007, as well as in the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration of 3 October 2013,²¹

⁹ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

¹⁰ Resolution 48/104.

¹¹ *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, annexes I and II.

¹² Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

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; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

¹⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

¹⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2013, Supplement No. 7* (E/2013/27), chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 2014, *Supplement No. 7* (E/2014/27), chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁷ Resolution 69/2.

¹⁸ Resolution 55/2.

¹⁹ See resolution 60/1.

²⁰ See resolution 65/1.

²¹ Resolution 68/4.

Recalling that the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals contained in its report²² shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of General Assembly, and in this regard taking note with appreciation of the reference to gender equality, women's empowerment and the need to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls contained therein,

Reaffirming the need for the full and effective participation of women in sustainable development policies, programmes and decision-making at all levels, as agreed in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development,²³ and taking note of the statement by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the post-2015 development agenda and the elimination of discrimination against women, including its emphasis on accountability,²⁴

Recalling the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,²⁵ noting in this regard the undertakings of its Chief Prosecutor to strengthen efforts to combat impunity for sexual and gender-based violence, and recalling the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture,

Recalling also the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,²⁶ including the responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights, bearing in mind the different risks that may be faced by women and men,

Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and its role in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and the high number of activities undertaken by the United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including by the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,

²² [A/68/970](#) and Corr.1.

²³ Resolution 66/288, annex.

²⁴ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/69/38)*, decision 57/I.

²⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

²⁶ [A/HRC/17/31](#), annex.

Deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world and to re-emphasize that violence against women and girls is unacceptable,

Emphasizing that States should continue to adopt and implement legislation and policies in accordance with their obligations under international law, and in particular in accordance with international human rights obligations and with their commitments, which address the issue of violence against women in a comprehensive manner, not only by criminalizing violence against women and girls and providing for punishment of the perpetrators, but also by including protection and preventive measures and access to just and effective remedies, including compensation and indemnification for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls, with provisions for adequate funding for their implementation, while exercising due diligence in addressing violence against women, including in their role as contributors to peace operations led by the United Nations or regional organizations,

Underlining the detrimental impact of sexual violence in armed conflict on women's participation in the resolution of conflict, post-conflict transition, reconstruction and peacebuilding processes,

Reaffirming the importance of effective accountability with regard to violence against women and girls, including sexual violence, abuse and exploitation, and of undertaking adequate measures to combat such violence,

Taking note, in this regard, of the Secretary-General's guidance note on reparations for conflict-related sexual violence,

Taking note of international and regional initiatives to combat sexual violence in armed conflict, including the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, which focused on justice, accountability and victim support,

Recognizing that violence against women and girls is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to women's full, equal and effective participation in society, the economy and political decision-making,

Recognizing also that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of education and sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social, economic and therefore sustainable development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Acknowledging the need to address violence against women and girls holistically, including through the recognition of linkages between violence against women and girls and other issues, such as HIV/AIDS, poverty eradication, food security, peace and security, humanitarian assistance, education, access to justice, health and crime prevention,

Acknowledging also that trafficking in persons is one of the forms of transnational organized crime which exposes women to violence and that concerted efforts are needed to combat it, and in this regard stressing that full and effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,²⁷ as well as the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,²⁸ will contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls,

Gravely concerned about the unprecedented number of refugees and displaced persons globally and recognizing the particular vulnerability of women and children among refugees and displaced persons, including exposure to discrimination and sexual and physical abuse, violence and exploitation, and in this regard acknowledging the importance of preventing, responding to and addressing sexual and gender-based violence,

Recognizing the need to address violence against women and girls resulting from transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons and drug trafficking, and to adopt specific policies to prevent and eradicate violence against women in crime prevention strategies,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts and the high number of activities undertaken by States to eliminate all forms of violence against women that have resulted in the strengthening of legislation and the criminal justice system, such as adopting national action plans, strategies and national coordination mechanisms, implementing preventive and protective measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building, such as through training for public officials and professionals, including judiciary, police, military, educational and criminal justice professionals, providing support and services for women facing or subjected to violence and improving data collection and analysis,

Recognizing that domestic violence remains widespread and affects women of all social strata across the world and the need to eliminate such violence, and in this connection recognizing the work done by relevant parts of the United Nations system, such as UN-Women, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund,

Recognizing also the important role of the family in combating violence against women and girls and the need to support its capacity to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Recognizing further the important role of the community, in particular men and boys, as well as civil society, including women human rights defenders and women's and youth organizations and the media, in the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Recognizing the vulnerability of those who suffer multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, such as older women, indigenous women, migrant women and women with disabilities, and the particular risk of violence they face, and stressing the urgent need to address violence and discrimination against them,

²⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

²⁸ Resolution 64/293.

Gravely concerned that impunity for violations and abuses against women human rights defenders persists owing to such factors as a lack of reporting, documentation, investigation and access to justice, social barriers and constraints with regard to addressing gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and the stigmatization that may result from such violations and abuses,

Alarmed by the acts of intolerance, violent extremism, violence, including sectarian violence, and terrorism in various parts of the world, which claim innocent lives, cause destruction and displace people, including women and girls,

Recognizing that the illicit use of and illicit trade in small arms, light weapons and ammunition aggravates violence, inter alia, against women and girls,

Taking note of the forthcoming entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty,²⁹ which includes provisions for States parties regarding serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children,

1. *Stresses* that “violence against women” means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life, and also notes the economic and social harm caused by such violence;

2. *Recognizes* that gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women’s ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men;

3. *Also recognizes* that violence against women and girls persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development, peace, security and the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Further recognizes* that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and stresses that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

5. *Stresses* that it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;¹⁰

6. *Strongly condemns* the targeting of civilian populations, including women and girls, in violation of international law, by violent extremists, and calls upon all States to intensify their efforts to counter violent extremism, including by addressing the conditions conducive to its spread, while ensuring that those efforts comply with their obligations under international law;

²⁹ See resolution 67/234 B.

7. *Also strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women and girls, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, including business enterprises, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

8. *Stresses* that States have the obligation, at all levels, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and hold to account the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and eliminate impunity and provide for access to appropriate remedies for victims and survivors, and should ensure the protection and empowerment of women and girls, including adequate enforcement by police and the judiciary of civil remedies, orders of protection and criminal sanctions, and the provision of shelters, psychosocial services, counselling, health-care and other types of support services, in order to avoid revictimization, and that to do so contributes to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women subjected to violence;

9. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,³⁰ as well as the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences;³¹

10. *Also welcomes* the efforts and contributions at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, and encourages States to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress achieved in the Secretary-General's 2008-2015 campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the regional components of the campaign, and stresses the need to accelerate the implementation of concrete follow-up activities by the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women;

12. *Welcomes* the contributions already made by States, the private sector and other donors to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, while stressing the importance of the need for further funding of the Fund in order to provide support for national, regional and international actions, including those taken by governmental and non-governmental organizations working to prevent and end violence against women and girls;

13. *Reaffirms* that the persistence of armed conflicts in various parts of the world is a major impediment to the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and, bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality, affecting women and men in nearly every region, calls upon all States and the international community to place particular focus on the plight, and give priority attention and increased assistance to relieving the suffering, of women and girls

³⁰ [A/69/222](#).

³¹ See [A/69/368](#).

living in such situations and to ensure that, where violence is committed against them, all perpetrators of such violence are duly investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, including by appropriate authorities contributing police, military or civilian personnel serving in peacekeeping missions, while stressing the need to respect international humanitarian law and human rights law, and invites States to consider the various provisions on sexual and gender-based violence set out in relevant international instruments, including, where appropriate, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;²⁵

14. *Stresses* the need for the exclusion of killing and maiming of women and girls, as prohibited under international law, and crimes of sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes and to address such acts during all stages of the armed conflict, conflict resolution and post-conflict situations, including through transitional justice mechanisms, while ensuring the full and effective participation of women in such processes;

15. *Also stresses* the importance of ensuring that in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and in natural disaster situations, the prevention of and response to all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, are prioritized and effectively addressed, including, as appropriate, through the investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators to end impunity, the removal of barriers to women's access to justice, the establishment of complaint and reporting mechanisms, the provision of support to victims and survivors, affordable and accessible health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health, and reintegration measures, and taking steps to increase women's participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding missions and processes and post-conflict decision-making;

16. *Further stresses* that, despite important steps taken by many countries around the world, States should continue to focus on the prevention of violence against women and girls, as well as on their protection, their empowerment and the provision of services, and should therefore implement laws and policies for ending violence against women and girls, and monitor and rigorously evaluate the implementation of available programmes, policies and laws and improve, where possible, their impact, accessibility and effectiveness;

17. *Stresses* that States should take measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, protecting and assisting the victims and investigating and punishing acts of violence receive ongoing and adequate training and access to information to sensitize them to the different and specific needs of women and girls, in particular those who have been subjected to violence, so that women and girls are not revictimized when seeking justice and redress, including in peacekeeping missions and processes and special political missions;

18. *Also stresses* that States should take all possible measures to empower and protect women against all forms of violence, to inform them of their human rights, including by disseminating information on the assistance available to women and families who have experienced violence and ensuring that timely and appropriate information is available to all women who have been subjected to violence, including at all stages of the justice system, and to inform everyone of women's rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights;

19. *Calls upon* States, with the support of United Nations entities, to fully engage men and boys, as well as families and communities, as partners and agents of change in preventing and condemning violence against women and girls, as well as in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and to develop appropriate policies to promote the responsibility and role of men and boys in eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls;

20. *Urges* States to continue to develop their national strategies, translating them into concrete programmes and actions and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and keeping in view the State's responsibility to exercise due diligence to prevent, protect against and investigate all acts of violence against women, by, for example:

(a) Establishing, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and at all relevant levels, a comprehensive integrated national plan dedicated to combating violence against women and girls in all its aspects, which includes data collection and analysis, and prevention and protection measures, as well as national information campaigns, using resources to eliminate in the media gender stereotypes that lead to violence against women and girls;

(b) Reviewing and, where appropriate, revising, amending or abolishing all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and ensuring that the provisions of multiple legal systems and alternative dispute resolution, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

(c) Ending impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of sexual and gender-based crimes against women and girls under national and international law, and stressing the need for the alleged perpetrators of those crimes to be held accountable under national justice or, where applicable, international justice;

(d) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women with a view to ensuring access to justice, improving rates of reporting and addressing the high attrition rate from reporting to conviction, and reinforcing, where necessary, criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women, with a focus on prevention and the protection of women and easy access to redress for victims;

(e) Adopting, as appropriate, reviewing and ensuring the accelerated and effective implementation of laws and comprehensive measures that criminalize violence against women and girls and that provide for multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive preventive and protective measures, such as emergency orders and protection orders, the investigation, submission for prosecution and appropriate punishment of perpetrators to end impunity, and support services that empower victims and survivors, as well as access to appropriate civil remedies and redress;

(f) Addressing and eliminating, as a matter of priority, domestic violence through adopting, strengthening and implementing legislation that prohibits such violence, prescribes punitive measures and establishes adequate legal protection against such violence;

(g) Promoting awareness among all stakeholders, in particular men and boys, of the need to combat violence against women, occurring in public or private life, and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, inter alia, through regular and repeated use and funding of awareness-raising campaigns nationwide and other ways to promote prevention and protection and the transformation of discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, as part of an integrated prevention strategy;

(h) Encouraging the media to examine the impact of gender role stereotypes, including those perpetuated by commercial advertisements which foster gender-based violence and inequalities;

(i) Ensuring that there is sufficient knowledge, including expertise in effective legal approaches to eliminating violence against women and girls, awareness and coordination in the legal system and, to that end, where appropriate, appointing a focal point in the legal system for cases of violence against women and girls;

(j) Also ensuring the systematic collection, analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age to monitor all forms of violence against women and girls, including on the effectiveness of preventive and protective measures, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, including law enforcement agencies, in order to effectively review and implement laws, policies, strategies and preventive and protective measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims;

(k) Establishing appropriate national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national measures, including national action plans, taken to eliminate violence against women, including through the use of national indicators;

(l) Providing adequate financial support and human resources for the implementation of national strategies and action plans to promote the empowerment of women and girls and gender equality, to end violence against women and girls and to prevent and provide for the redress of all forms of violence against women and girls and other relevant activities;

(m) Investing in the realization of the right to education, by, inter alia, eliminating illiteracy, in particular in rural and remote areas, and by closing the gender gap at all levels of education, thereby contributing to the empowerment of women and girls and to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls;

(n) Adopting all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, from the entry levels of the education system, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, in order to promote the development of respectful relations and to eliminate prejudices, harmful customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women, and by raising awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women and girls at all levels, including through schools, educational programmes, teachers, parents, religious leaders, youth organizations and teaching materials sensitized on gender equality and human rights;

(o) Improving the safety and security of girls at and on the way to and from school, including by establishing a safe and violence-free environment by improving infrastructure such as transportation and providing separate and adequate sanitation facilities in all relevant places, improved lighting, playgrounds and safe environments and adopting national policies to prohibit, prevent and address violence against children, especially girls, including sexual harassment and bullying and other forms of violence, through measures such as conducting violence prevention activities in schools and communities and establishing and enforcing penalties for violence against girls;

(p) Developing gender-sensitive educational programmes at all levels and, in this regard, taking concrete measures to ensure that women and men, youth, girls and boys are portrayed in positive and non-stereotypical roles;

(q) Promoting preventive measures at an early stage with families and children exposed to or at risk of violence, such as parenting education programmes, to reduce the risk of possible perpetration of violence or revictimization in later childhood and adulthood;

(r) Ensuring that the appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures are in place to protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse;

(s) Ensuring also that the appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures are in place to eliminate the occurrence of child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation and to provide information regarding the harm associated with these practices;

(t) Empowering women, in particular women living in poverty, by, inter alia, strengthening their economic autonomy and by ensuring their full participation in society and in decision-making processes, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and to affordable and adequate public and social services, as well as equal access to financial resources and employment, and full and equal rights to own and have access to land and other property, and taking further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to violence;

(u) Treating all forms of violence against women and girls as a criminal offence, punishable by law, contributing, inter alia, to the prevention and non-recurrence of such crimes, and ensuring penalties commensurate with the severity of the crimes and sanctions in domestic legislation to punish, and redress, as appropriate, the wrongs caused to women and girls who are subjected to violence;

(v) Taking effective measures, as appropriate, to prevent the requirement for victim consent from becoming an impediment to bringing perpetrators of violence against women and girls to justice, while ensuring that criminal justice processes are gender-sensitive and that appropriate safeguards and measures to protect women facing or subjected to violence, such as restraining and expulsion orders against the perpetrators, testimonial aids and adequate and comprehensive measures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence into society, are in place;

(w) Encouraging the removal of all barriers to women's access to justice and ensuring that they all have access to effective legal assistance so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues relating to family law, and also ensuring that they have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including through the adoption of national legislation where necessary;

(x) Ensuring effective cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders, including all relevant public officials and civil society, in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of all forms of violence against women and girls;

(y) Ensuring the promotion and protection of the human rights of all women and their sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,³² the Beijing Platform for Action¹¹ and the outcome documents of their review conferences, including through the development and enforcement of policies and legal frameworks and the strengthening of health systems that make universally accessible and available quality comprehensive sexual and reproductive health-care services, commodities, information and education, including safe and effective methods of modern contraception, emergency contraception, prevention programmes for adolescent pregnancy, maternal health care such as skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care, which will reduce obstetric fistula and other complications of pregnancy and delivery, safe abortion where such services are permitted by national law and prevention and treatment of reproductive tract infections, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and reproductive cancers, recognizing that human rights include the right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free from coercion, discrimination and violence;

(z) Preventing, combating and eliminating trafficking in women and girls by criminalizing all forms of trafficking in persons, as well as by raising public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, and eliminating the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation and forced labour, and encouraging, where appropriate, the media to play a role with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children;

(aa) Establishing comprehensive, coordinated, interdisciplinary, accessible and sustained multisectoral services, programmes and responses at all levels to provide immediate protection and support, available and accessible also in rural areas, through which shelter, legal, health, psychological, counselling and other services are available to all women facing or subjected to violence, as well as their children, and, where integrated centres are not feasible, promoting collaboration and coordination among agencies;

(bb) Encouraging the establishment, strengthening or support of national and local helplines that provide information, counselling, support and referral services to women facing or subjected to violence;

³² *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.

(cc) Ensuring that the prison system and probation services provide appropriate rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, as a preventive tool against recidivism as part of an integrated response to violence against women, and place the safety of women and girls as the highest priority;

(dd) Adopting a life-cycle approach in efforts to end discrimination and violence against women and girls and ensuring that specific issues affecting older women are given greater visibility and attention;

21. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and girls and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices, taking into account national priorities;

22. *Stresses* the contribution of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court to ending impunity, by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of violence against women, and urges States to consider ratifying or acceding as a matter of priority to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which entered into force on 1 July 2002;

23. *Calls upon* the inter-agency Programme Advisory Committee of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, to continue to provide guidance on the implementation of the 2010-2015 strategy for the Trust Fund and to further enhance its effectiveness as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls and to give due consideration, inter alia, to the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Trust Fund;

24. *Stresses* that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and other bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls, and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, and calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available;

25. *Also stresses* the importance of the Secretary-General's database on violence against women, expresses its appreciation to all the States that have provided the database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and supporting victims of such violence, strongly encourages all States to regularly provide updated information for the database, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

26. *Acknowledges* the work of the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, as requested by the Statistical Commission, on the development of guidelines to support the production by Member States of statistics on violence against women and girls;

27. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work with a view to increasing effective support for national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

28. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to present an annual report to the General Assembly at its seventieth and seventy-first sessions;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report containing:

(a) Information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement resolution 67/144 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(b) Information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the present resolution;

30. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions including information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolutions 65/187 and 67/144 and the present resolution, including on the progress made in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide United Nations mechanism and on the progress of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

31. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its seventy-first session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

Draft resolution II

Intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/138 of 18 December 2007, 63/158 of 18 December 2008, 65/188 of 21 December 2010 and 67/147 of 20 December 2012 on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹ 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”,² the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development³ and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,⁴ and their reviews, and the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance⁵ and the 2005 World Summit,⁶ as well as those made in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”,⁷

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁸ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁹ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹⁰ and urging States that have not done so to consider, as a matter of priority, signing, ratifying or acceding to those Conventions and the Optional Protocols thereto,¹¹

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,¹² and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Stressing the interlinkages between poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health-care services, early childbearing, child, early and forced marriage, violence against young women and girls and gender discrimination as root causes of obstetric fistula, and that poverty remains the main social risk factor,

Recognizing that the difficult socioeconomic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty,

¹ *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, annexes I and II.

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

³ *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.

⁴ *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.

⁵ See [A/CONF.189/12](#) and Corr.1, chap. I.

⁶ Resolution 60/1.

⁷ Resolution 65/1.

⁸ Resolution 217 A (III).

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; *ibid.*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.

¹² [A/69/256](#).

Recognizing also that early childbearing increases the risk of complications during pregnancy and delivery and entails a much higher risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, and deeply concerned that early childbearing and limited access to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, specifically timely access to high-quality emergency obstetric care, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and other maternal morbidities, as well as maternal mortality,

Recognizing further that adolescent girls are particularly at risk of maternal death and morbidity, including obstetric fistula, and concerned that the leading cause of death among girls aged 15 to 19 in many low- and middle-income countries is complications from pregnancy and childbirth and that women aged 30 and older are at increased risk of developing complications and of dying during childbirth,

Noting that a human rights-based approach to eliminating obstetric fistula is underpinned by the principles of, inter alia, accountability, participation, transparency, empowerment, sustainability, non-discrimination and international cooperation,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against women and girls and the violation of their rights, which often result in less access for girls to education and nutrition, their reduced physical and mental health and the enjoyment by girls of fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence compared with boys, and in their often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices,

Deeply concerned also about the situation of women living with or recovering from obstetric fistula, who are often neglected and stigmatized,

Recognizing the need to raise awareness among men and adolescent boys, and in this context to fully engage men and community leaders as strategic partners and allies in the efforts to address and eliminate obstetric fistula,

Welcoming the contribution by Member States, the international community and civil society to the global Campaign to End Fistula, bearing in mind that a people-centred approach to social and economic development is fundamental for protecting and empowering individuals and communities,

Deeply concerned that, as the Campaign to End Fistula has completed its tenth anniversary, while some progress has been made, there remain significant challenges that require the intensification of efforts at all levels to end obstetric fistula,

Recognizing the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, undertaken by a broad coalition of partners, in support of national plans and strategies aimed at significantly reducing the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths and disabilities as a matter of immediate concern by scaling up a priority package of high-impact interventions and integrating efforts in sectors such as health, education, gender equality, water and sanitation, poverty eradication and nutrition,

Welcoming the various national, regional and international initiatives on all the Millennium Development Goals, including those undertaken bilaterally and through South-South cooperation, in support of national plans and strategies in sectors such as health, education, gender equality, energy, water and sanitation, poverty eradication and nutrition as a way to reduce the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths,

Welcoming also ongoing partnerships between stakeholders at all levels to address the multifaceted determinants of maternal, newborn and child health in close coordination with Member States based on their needs and priorities, including beyond 2015, and in this regard welcoming further the commitments to accelerate progress on the health-related Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

Reaffirming the renewed and reinforced commitments made by Member States to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 by 2015 and to continue with these efforts beyond 2015,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014 on the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,¹³ by which it decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and in this regard noting the importance of continuing efforts to end obstetric fistula,

1. *Recognizes* the interlinkages between poverty, lack of or inadequate access to health-care services, early childbearing and child, early and forced marriage as root causes of obstetric fistula, that poverty and inequality remain the main social risk factor and that the eradication of poverty is critical to meeting the needs and rights of women and girls, and calls upon States, in collaboration with the international community, to take accelerated action to address the situation;

2. *Stresses* the need to address the social issues that contribute to the problem of obstetric fistula, such as poverty, lack of or inadequate education for women and girls, lack of access to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, early childbearing, child, early and forced marriage and the low status of women and girls;

3. *Calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,³ the Beijing Platform for Action¹⁴ and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and to develop sustainable health systems and social services with a view to ensuring access to such systems and services without discrimination, while paying special attention to adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation, family planning information, increasing women's empowerment as well as knowledge and awareness and ensuring equitable access to high-quality appropriate prenatal and delivery care for the prevention of obstetric fistula and the reduction of health inequities, as well as postnatal care for the detection and early management of fistula cases;

4. *Also calls upon* States to ensure the right to education for women and girls, of good quality, on an equal basis with men and boys and to ensure that they complete a full course of primary education, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand girls' and women's education at all levels, including at the secondary

¹³ A/68/970 and Corr.1.

¹⁴ *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 II.

and higher levels, and including age-appropriate sex education, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order to, inter alia, achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and poverty eradication;

5. *Urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage, including in rural and remote areas, is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

6. *Calls upon* the international community to provide intensified technical and financial support, in particular to high-burden countries, to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 5 by 2015 and the elimination of obstetric fistula in the remaining days of the Millennium Development Goals and beyond 2015;

7. *Urges* multilateral donors, international financial institutions, and regional development banks in the public and private sectors, within their respective mandates, to review and implement policies to support national efforts and institutional capacity-building to end obstetric fistula and to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach young women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas, as well as to ensure that needed funding is increased, predictable and sustained;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to support the activities of the United Nations Population Fund and other partners in the global Campaign to End Fistula, including the World Health Organization, in establishing and financing regional fistula treatment and training centres and, where necessary, national centres, by identifying and supporting health facilities that have the potential to serve as centres for treatment, training and convalescent care;

9. *Calls upon* States to accelerate progress in order to improve maternal health in the remaining days of the Millennium Development Goals and beyond 2015, by addressing sexual and reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, through the provision of family planning, prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care, postnatal care, and methods of prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and infections, such as HIV, within strengthened health systems that provide equal access to affordable, equitable and high-quality integrated health-care services and include community-based preventive and clinical care, as also reflected in the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”,⁷ and the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health;

10. *Urges* the international community to address the shortage of doctors and the inequitable distribution of midwives, nurses and other health workers trained in lifesaving obstetric care and of space and supplies, which limit the capacity of most fistula centres;

11. *Commends* the commemoration by the international community of 23 May as the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula and the decision to continue to use the International Day each year to significantly raise awareness and intensify actions towards ending obstetric fistula;

12. *Calls upon* States and/or the relevant funds and programmes, organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector:

(a) To redouble their efforts to meet the internationally agreed goal of improving maternal health by making maternal health-care services and obstetric fistula treatment geographically and financially accessible, including by ensuring universal access to skilled attendance at birth and timely access to high-quality emergency obstetric care and family planning, as well as appropriate prenatal and postnatal care;

(b) To make greater investments in strengthening health systems, ensuring adequately trained and skilled human resources, especially midwives, obstetricians, gynaecologists and doctors, and providing support for the development and maintenance of infrastructure, as well as investments in referral mechanisms, equipment and supply chains, to improve maternal and newborn health-care services and ensure that women and girls have access to the full continuum of care, with functional quality control and monitoring mechanisms in place for all areas of service delivery;

(c) To support the training of doctors, nurses and other health workers in lifesaving obstetric care, especially midwives, who are the front-line workers in the fight to prevent obstetric fistula and maternal and newborn mortality, and include training on fistula repair, treatment and care as a standard element of the training curricula of health professionals;

(d) To ensure equitable access through national policies, plans and programmes that make maternal and newborn health-care services, particularly family planning, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care and obstetric fistula treatment, financially accessible, including in rural and remote areas and among the poorest women and girls, through, where appropriate, the establishment and distribution of health-care facilities and trained medical personnel, collaboration with the transport sector for affordable transport options, the promotion of and support for community-based solutions and the provision of incentives and other means to secure the presence in rural and remote areas of qualified health professionals who are able to perform interventions to prevent obstetric fistula;

(e) To develop, implement and support national and international prevention, care and treatment and socioeconomic reintegration and support strategies, policies and plans to eliminate obstetric fistula and to develop further multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated action plans in order to bring about lasting solutions and put an end to maternal mortality and morbidity and obstetric fistula, including by ensuring access to affordable, accessible, comprehensive, high-quality maternal health-care services; within countries, policy and programmatic approaches to address inequities and reach poor, vulnerable women and girls must be incorporated into all sectors of national budgets;

(f) To establish or strengthen, as appropriate, a national task force for obstetric fistula, led by the Ministry of Health, to enhance national coordination and improve partner collaboration to end obstetric fistula;

(g) To strengthen the capacity of health systems, in particular public health systems, to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat existing cases by increasing national budgets for health, ensuring that adequate funds are allocated to reproductive health, including for obstetric fistula, ensuring access to fistula treatment through increased availability of trained, expert fistula surgeons and permanent, holistic fistula services integrated into strategically selected hospitals, thereby addressing the significant backlog of women and girls awaiting surgical repair of fistula, and encouraging communication among fistula centres to facilitate training, research, advocacy and fundraising and the application of relevant medical standards, including consideration of the use of the World Health Organization manual entitled “Obstetric Fistula: Guiding Principles for Clinical Management and Programme Development”, which provides background information and principles for developing fistula prevention and treatment programmes, as appropriate;

(h) To mobilize funding to provide free or adequately subsidized maternal health-care and obstetric fistula repair and treatment services, including by encouraging networking among providers and the sharing of new treatment techniques and protocols to protect women’s and children’s well-being and survival and to prevent the recurrence of subsequent fistulas by making post-surgery follow-up and the tracking of fistula patients a routine and key component of all fistula programmes; access to elective caesarean sections for fistula survivors who become pregnant again should also be ensured to prevent fistula recurrence and to increase the chances of survival of mother and baby in all subsequent pregnancies;

(i) To ensure that all women and girls who have undergone fistula treatment, including the forgotten women and girls with incurable or inoperable fistula, are provided with and have access to comprehensive health-care services, holistic social integration services and careful follow-up, including counselling, education, family planning and socioeconomic empowerment, for as long as needed through, inter alia, skills development and income-generating activities, so that they can overcome abandonment and social exclusion; linkages with civil society organizations and women’s and girls’ empowerment programmes should be developed to help to achieve this goal;

(j) To empower fistula survivors to contribute to community sensitization and mobilization as advocates for fistula elimination, safe motherhood and newborn survival;

(k) To educate individual women and men, girls and boys, communities, policymakers and health professionals about how obstetric fistula can be prevented and treated, and increase awareness of the needs of pregnant women and girls, as well as of those who have undergone surgical fistula repair, including their right to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, by working with community and religious leaders, traditional birth attendants, women and girls who have suffered from fistula, the media, social workers, civil society, women’s organizations, influential public figures and policymakers;

(l) To enhance the participation of men and adolescent boys in the intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula and to further strengthen their involvement as partners, including in the United Nations Population Fund Campaign to End Fistula;

(m) To strengthen awareness-raising and advocacy, including through the media, to effectively reach families and communities with key messages on fistula prevention and treatment and social reintegration;

(n) To strengthen research, monitoring and evaluation systems, including by developing a community- and facility-based mechanism for the systematic notification of obstetric fistula cases and maternal and newborn deaths to ministries of health, and their recording in a national register, and to acknowledging obstetric fistula as a nationally notifiable condition, triggering immediate reporting, tracking and follow-up for the purpose of guiding the development and implementation of maternal health programmes;

(o) To strengthen research, data collection, monitoring and evaluation to guide the planning and implementation of maternal health programmes, including for obstetric fistula, by conducting up-to-date needs assessments on emergency obstetric and newborn care and for fistula, and routine reviews of maternal deaths and near-miss cases, as part of a national maternal death surveillance and response system, integrated within national health information systems;

(p) To improve data collection, pre- and post-surgery, to measure progress in addressing the needs for surgical treatment and the quality of surgery, rehabilitation and socioeconomic reintegration services, including post-surgery prospects for successful subsequent pregnancies, live births and severe health-related complications, so as to address the challenges of improving maternal health;

(q) To provide essential health-care services, equipment and supplies, skills training and income-generating projects to women and girls so that they can break out of the cycle of poverty;

13. *Acknowledges* that intensification of efforts is urgently needed to end obstetric fistula, and in this context the importance of giving the issue due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

14. *Invites* Member States to contribute to efforts to end obstetric fistula, including, in particular, through the United Nations Population Fund Campaign to End Fistula, as part of the endeavours to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 by 2015, and to commit themselves to continue efforts to improve maternal health beyond 2015 with the aim of eliminating obstetric fistula globally;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

Draft resolution III

Trafficking in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes a serious threat to human dignity, human rights and development,

Recalling all international conventions that deal specifically with and address issues relevant to the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime¹ and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,² and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,³ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴ and the Optional Protocol thereto,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁶ and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,⁷ and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,⁸ as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and the Human Rights Council on the issue,

Recognizing the crucial importance of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which entered into force on 25 December 2003 and provided for the first time an internationally agreed definition of the crime of trafficking in persons, aimed at the prevention of trafficking in persons, the protection of its victims and the prosecution of its perpetrators,

Welcoming the outcome of the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which took a further step towards identifying an appropriate mechanism or mechanisms to review the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,

Reaffirming the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,⁹

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

² Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

³ Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.

⁴ Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁵ Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

⁶ Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁷ Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.

⁸ Ibid., vol. 96, No. 1342.

⁹ *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, annexes I and II.

Reaffirming also the commitment made by world leaders at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims,

Welcoming in particular the efforts of States, United Nations bodies and agencies, and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, including the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010,

Taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference, at its 103rd session, on 11 June 2014, of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and the Recommendation on Supplementary Measures for the Effective Suppression of Forced Labour, 2014 (No. 203) of the International Labour Organization, which specify that measures to be taken for the prevention of forced or compulsory labour shall include specific actions against trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour,

Welcoming, in the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women during its fifty-eighth session,¹⁰ the commitment of Governments to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking; to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour; and to review and adopt laws, regulations and penalties necessary to deal with this issue and publicize them to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime,

Welcoming also the observance of the first World Day against Trafficking in Persons on 30 July 2014, in the context of the need for raising awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights,

Noting with appreciation the steps taken, including the reports of human rights treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, and by United Nations agencies and other concerned intergovernmental and governmental organizations, within their existing mandates, as well as civil society, to address the serious crime of trafficking in persons, and encouraging them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

Noting the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons,¹¹ especially women and children, and the fact that part of her task is to integrate a gender- and age-specific perspective throughout the work of her

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 7 (E/2014/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

¹¹ See Human Rights Council resolution 26/8.

mandate, inter alia, through the identification of gender- and age-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the issue of trafficking in persons,

Acknowledging the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,¹² which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

Bearing in mind the obligations of States to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to protect and empower victims, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Seriously concerned that an increasing number of women and girls are being trafficked, including to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

Recognizing that certain efforts against trafficking in persons lack the gender and age sensitivity needed to address effectively the situation of women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, services and other forms of exploitation, thus highlighting the need to incorporate a gender- and age-sensitive approach into all anti-trafficking efforts,

Recognizing also the need to address the impact of globalization on the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

Recognizing further that poverty, unemployment, lack of socioeconomic opportunities, gender based violence, discrimination and marginalization are some of the contributing factors that make persons vulnerable to trafficking,

Recognizing the heightened vulnerability to trafficking of women and girls in humanitarian crisis situations, including in conflict and post-conflict environments, natural disasters and other emergency environments,

Recognizing also the need to reinforce efforts regarding the provision of relevant documents, such as birth registration documents, in order to lower the risk of being trafficked and to help to identify victims of trafficking in persons,

Recognizing further that, despite the progress made, challenges to preventing and combating trafficking in women and girls remain and that further efforts should be made to adopt adequate legislation and programmes to implement such legislation and to continue improving the collection of reliable data disaggregated by sex and age and statistics that would allow proper analysis of the nature, extent and risk factors of trafficking in women and girls,

Recognizing the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts to protect women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

Concerned about the use of new information and communications technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of recruiting for the exploitation of the prostitution of others, including for exploiting women and children and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children, as well as for forced marriage and forced labour,

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

Concerned also about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhuman conditions and in flagrant violation of national laws and international standards,

Noting with concern that women and girls are also vulnerable to the risk of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, and in this regard taking note of Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 23/2, entitled “Preventing and combating trafficking in human organs and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal”,¹³ adopted by the Commission at its twenty-third session,

Recognizing that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of their gender, age, ethnicity, disability, culture and religion, as well as their origin, and that those forms of discrimination themselves may fuel trafficking in persons,

Noting with concern that some of the demand fostering sexual exploitation, exploitative labour and the illegal removal of organs is met by trafficking in persons,

Acknowledging that women and girl victims of trafficking, on account of their gender, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information on or awareness and recognition of their human rights and by the stigmatization often associated with trafficking, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to accurate information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

Encouraging the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the issue of trafficking in women and girls, at its fifty-ninth session, within the framework of the review of progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as opportunities for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda,

Welcoming the decision by the General Assembly, in its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, that the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals contained in its report¹⁴ shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, and taking note with appreciation of the reference to ensuring gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls contained in the proposals of the Open Working Group,

Reaffirming the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

¹³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 10 (E/2014/30)*, chap. I, sect. D.

¹⁴ [A/68/970](#) and Corr.1.

Taking note of the second consultative meeting on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs on trafficking in persons and equivalent mechanisms, held in Bangkok in May 2014, and the establishment of an informal network of such mechanisms from all over the world in order to address trafficking in persons in a consistent manner, exchange information and best practices and build on different national experiences,

Reaffirming that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially women and children, demand the strong political commitment, coordinated and coherent efforts and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

Recognizing that policies and programmes for prevention, protection, rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration should be developed through a gender- and age-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, with concern for the security of the victims and respect for the full enjoyment of their human rights and with the involvement of all actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

Convinced of the need to protect and assist all victims of trafficking, with full respect for the human rights and dignity of the victims,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁵ which provides information on measures by States and activities within the United Nations system to tackle trafficking in women and girls;

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the information submitted by Member States and United Nations entities on measures and activities taken to combat trafficking in women and girls, and urges Member States and United Nations entities that have not done so to submit the requested information for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children;¹⁶

4. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime¹ and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,² taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

5. *Urges* Member States to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴ and the Optional Protocol thereto,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁶ and the Optional Protocols thereto,¹⁷ and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,¹⁸

¹⁵ A/69/224.

¹⁶ A/69/269 and A/HRC/26/37.

¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; and resolution 66/138, annex.

¹⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

as well as the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)¹⁹ and the Protocol thereto, the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81),²⁰ the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97),²¹ the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111),²² the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138),²³ the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143),²⁴ the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181),²⁵ the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),²⁶ and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization;

6. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons²⁷ and the activities outlined therein;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation, including by sharing their knowledge, technical expertise and best practices as widely as possible;

8. *Welcomes* the convening of the Regional Ministerial Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa organized in Khartoum, from 13 to 16 October 2014, by the African Union in collaboration with the Government of the Sudan, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, in this regard takes note with appreciation of the outcome document of the Conference, known as the Khartoum Declaration, and calls for its implementation, including through technical cooperation and capacity-building by the United Nations and the international community;

9. *Encourages* the United Nations system to mainstream, as appropriate, the issue of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, into its broader policies and programmes aimed at addressing economic and social development, human rights, the rule of law, good governance, education, health and natural disaster and post-conflict reconstruction;

10. *Welcomes* the focus given by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to ending violence against women and to increasing women's access to economic opportunities, as well as its work on building effective partnerships for the empowerment of women, which will contribute to the efforts to combat trafficking in persons;

¹⁹ Ibid., vol. 39, No. 612.

²⁰ Ibid., vol. 54, No. 792.

²¹ Ibid., vol. 120, No. 1616.

²² Ibid., vol. 362, No. 5181.

²³ Ibid., vol. 1015, No. 14862.

²⁴ Ibid., vol. 1120, No. 17426.

²⁵ Ibid., vol. 2115, No. 36794.

²⁶ Ibid., vol. 2133, No. 37245.

²⁷ Resolution 64/293.

11. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify their efforts to address, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters the trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation and in this regard to put in place or enhance preventive measures, including legislative and punitive measures to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

12. *Acknowledges* the drafting of the basic principles on the right to an effective remedy for victims of trafficking in persons;²⁸

13. *Calls upon* Governments to strengthen measures aimed at advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls by, inter alia, enhancing their participation and leadership in society, including through education, economic empowerment and promoting an increase in the number of women assuming decision-making roles in both the public and private sectors, and to take further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to being trafficked;

14. *Also calls upon* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the factors that increase vulnerability to being trafficked, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as other factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for exploitation in prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage, forced labour and organ removal, in order to prevent and eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, including public officials engaging in or facilitating human trafficking, through, as appropriate, criminal and civil measures;

15. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community and all other organizations and entities that deal with conflict, post-conflict, disaster and other emergency situations to address the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and exploitation and associated gender-based violence and to include the prevention of the trafficking of affected women and girls in all such national, regional and international initiatives;

16. *Urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective gender- and age-sensitive measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

17. *Also urges* Governments to ensure that the prevention of and responses to trafficking in persons continue to take into account the specific needs of women and girls and their participation and contribution in all phases of preventing and responding to trafficking, especially in addressing specific forms of exploitation, such as sexual exploitation;

18. *Further urges* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources to strengthen preventive action, in particular education for women and men, as well as for girls and boys, on gender equality, self-respect and mutual respect, and campaigns, carried out in collaboration with civil society, to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels, including anti-trafficking awareness-

²⁸ A/69/269, annex.

raising campaigns targeted at groups that are at increased risk of becoming victims of trafficking, as well as those who may fuel the demand for the exploitation of trafficked persons and/or their labour;

19. *Reiterates* the importance of continued coordination among, inter alia, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication in their activities in fulfilment of their mandates;

20. *Urges* Governments to strengthen measures to eliminate sex tourism demand, especially for children, through all possible preventive actions, including legislative measures and other relevant policies and programmes;

21. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the World Tourism Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to promote their global campaign urging travellers to support the fight against trafficking in persons, especially women and girls;

22. *Urges* Governments to develop age-appropriate educational and training programmes and policies aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

23. *Encourages* Member States to establish or strengthen national programmes and to engage in bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, including by forging regional initiatives or plans of action,²⁹ to address the problem of trafficking in persons through, inter alia, the enhancement of information-sharing, data disaggregated by sex and age, specific data collection and other technical capacities, and mutual legal assistance, as well as the combating of corruption and laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, and to ensure, as appropriate, that such agreements and initiatives are particularly responsive to the problem of trafficking as it affects women and girls;

24. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation and abuse, sex tourism and forced labour, and to bring to justice and punish the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials involved with trafficking in persons, whether local or foreign,

²⁹ Such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, the Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific region of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (see [A/C.3/55/3](#), annex), the initiatives of the European Union on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed most recently in the European Union plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings, adopted in December 2005, the activities of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the Organization of American States Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, the Agreement on the Cooperation of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating Trafficking in Persons, Human Organs and Tissues, and the activities of the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration in this field.

through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

25. *Urges* Governments, in accordance with their respective legal systems, to take all appropriate measures, including policies and legislation, to ensure that victims of trafficking are protected from prosecution or punishment for acts those victims have been compelled to commit as a direct consequence of having been trafficked and that the victims do not suffer from revictimization as a result of actions taken by Government authorities, and encourages Governments to prevent, within their legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking in persons from being prosecuted or punished as a direct consequence of their illegal entry or residence;

26. *Invites* Governments to consider establishing or strengthening a national mechanism, with the participation of civil society, as appropriate, including non-governmental organizations, to ensure a holistic and coordinated approach to anti-trafficking policies and measures, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, and to include data on victims of trafficking disaggregated by sex and age;

27. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to continue cooperating with international, regional and national mechanisms to combat trafficking in persons, in consultation with Governments, relevant treaty bodies, special procedures, specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions and other sources, including victims of trafficking or their representatives, as appropriate;

28. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, from within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour, to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue and emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime;

29. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide access to appropriate programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including sexual and reproductive health-care services that include affordable treatment, care and support services for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, free of stigma and discrimination, as well as comprehensive information and voluntary counselling, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

30. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and civil society organizations, to undertake or strengthen campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations, rights and responsibilities with respect to migration, as well as information on the risks of irregular migration and the ways and means used

by traffickers, so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

31. *Also encourages* Governments to review and strengthen, as appropriate, the enforcement of relevant labour and other laws within their territories or jurisdictions that are aimed at, or have the effect of, requiring business enterprises, including recruitment agencies, to prevent and combat human trafficking in supply chains, and to periodically assess the adequacy of such laws and address any gaps;

32. *Invites* the business sector to consider the adoption of ethical codes of conduct to ensure decent work and to prevent any form of exploitative practices that foster trafficking;

33. *Encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement gender- and age-sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

34. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for, and to raise awareness among, law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials on the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, and in this regard calls upon Governments to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, especially by law enforcement officials, immigration officers, consular officials, social workers and other first response officials, is conducted with full respect for the human rights of those victims and with gender and age sensitivity and observes the principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination;

35. *Invites* Member States to provide training for law enforcement and border control officials, as well as medical personnel, in identifying potential cases of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal;

36. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities without fear and being available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to gender- and age-sensitive protection and, as appropriate, social, medical, financial and legal assistance, including the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered;

37. *Also invites* Governments to intensify efforts aimed at the speedy disposition of cases of trafficking in persons and, in cooperation with, inter alia, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to devise, enforce and strengthen systems and mechanisms for combating trafficking in persons;

38. *Further invites* Governments to encourage media providers, including Internet service providers, to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children, in particular girls, which could foster trafficking;

39. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism, travel and telecommunications industries, relevant recruitment agencies and mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women

and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking, the means used by traffickers, the rights of trafficked persons and the services available to victims of trafficking;

40. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of data disaggregated by sex and age and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

41. *Invites* Governments, United Nations bodies, agencies and special mechanisms, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

42. *Invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, when necessary, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals and other informational materials and provide training for law enforcement, judicial and other relevant officers, and medical and support personnel, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

43. *Encourages* Governments and relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations are provided with training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate or exploit trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and to raise the awareness of such personnel of the potential risks to victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, of being trafficked;

44. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenants on Human Rights³⁰ to include information and disaggregated statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

45. *Invites* States to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session a report that compiles information on successful interventions and strategies, as well as the gaps, in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of trafficking in persons and provides recommendations on the strengthening of human rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive approaches within comprehensive and balanced efforts to address trafficking in persons.

³⁰ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Draft resolution IV

Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/117 of 9 December 1998, 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 67/146 of 20 December 2012 and 68/146 of 18 December 2013, 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 resolution 27/22 of 24 September 2014, and all relevant agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁴ and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁵ together with the Optional Protocols thereto,⁶ constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls,

Reaffirming also the Beijing Declaration⁷ and Platform for Action,⁸ 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”,⁹ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development¹⁰ and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development¹¹ and their 5-year, 10-year, 15-year and 20-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration¹² and the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the 2005 World Summit¹³ and reiterated in Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”,

Recalling 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 contains, inter alia, undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation and marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment and ending of female genital mutilation,

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 Corr.1), chap. I, sect. D.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531; *ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; and resolution 66/138, annex.

⁷ *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.

⁸ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁹ Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

¹⁰ *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.

¹¹ *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.

¹² Resolution 55/2.

¹³ See resolution 60/1.

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,

Recalling further the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session that the Economic and Social Council recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a decision to consider the issue of ending female genital mutilation at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled “Advancement of women”,¹⁴

Recognizing that female genital mutilations constitute irreparable, irreversible harm that impairs the human rights of women and girls, affecting about 100 million to 140 million women and girls worldwide, and that each year an estimated further 3 million girls are at risk of being subjected to the practice throughout the world,

Reaffirming that female genital mutilations are a harmful practice, constituting a serious threat to the health of women and girls, including their psychological, sexual and reproductive health, increasing their vulnerability to HIV and possibly having 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,

Concerned about evidence of an increase in the incidence of female genital mutilations being carried out by medical personnel in all regions in which they are practised,

Recognizing that negative discriminatory stereotypical attitudes and behaviours 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,

Recognizing also that the campaign of the Secretary-General entitled “UNiTE to End Violence against Women” and the database on violence against women have contributed to addressing the elimination of female genital mutilations,

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations system to end female genital mutilations, in particular the commitment of 10 United Nations entities¹⁵ announced in their joint inter-agency statement of 27 February 2008 on eliminating female genital mutilation, as well as the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change, 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

¹⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2012, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2012/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁵ 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.

for the elimination of female genital mutilation as well as the implementation of resolution 67/146,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁶

Noting with disappointment, in this regard, the continuing need for the information requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/146, which was not provided, concerning the root causes and contributing factors of the practice of female genital mutilations, its prevalence worldwide and its impact on women and girls, including evidence and data, analysis of progress made to date and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice on the basis of information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders,

Deeply concerned that, despite the increase in national, regional and international efforts and the focus on the abandonment of female genital mutilations, the practice continues to persist in all regions of the world, and is often on the rise for migrant women and girls,

Deeply concerned also 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 mutilations,

Recalling its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, on the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,¹⁷ by which it decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and noting that the report integrates the importance of the elimination of all harmful practices to women and girls, including female genital mutilation,

1. *Stresses* that the 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 highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, and calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁴ and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁵ as well as their commitments to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,¹⁸ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,¹⁰ the Beijing Platform for Action⁸ 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”,⁹ and of the special session of the Assembly on children;¹⁹

2. *Calls upon* States to place a stronger focus on the development of comprehensive prevention strategies, including the enhancement of educational campaigns, awareness-raising and formal, non-formal and informal education and training in order to promote the direct engagement of girls and boys, women and

¹⁶ A/69/211.

¹⁷ A/68/970 and Corr.1.

¹⁸ Resolution 48/104.

¹⁹ Resolution S-27/2, annex.

men and to ensure that all key actors, Government officials, including law enforcement and judicial personnel, immigration officials, health-care providers, civil society, community and religious leaders, teachers, employers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, families and communities, work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices, in particular all forms of female genital mutilations, that negatively affect women and girls;

3. *Also calls upon* States to strengthen advocacy and awareness-raising programmes, to mobilize girls and boys to take an active part in developing preventive and elimination programmes to address harmful practices, especially female genital mutilations, and to engage local community and religious leaders, educational institutions, the media and families and provide increased financial support to efforts at all levels to end discriminatory social norms and practices;

4. *Urges* States to condemn all harmful practices that affect women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, whether committed within or outside a medical institution, and to take all necessary measures, especially through educational campaigns, including enacting and enforcing legislation, to prohibit female genital mutilations and to protect women and girls from this form of violence, and to hold perpetrators to account;

5. *Also 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 mutilations, and further urges States to protect and support women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilations and those at risk, including by developing social and psychological support services and care, and to explore other remedies as appropriate and take measures to improve their health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to assist women and girls who are subjected to the practice;

6. *Further urges* States, as appropriate, to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes by reviewing and revising school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilations, 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;

7. *Urges* States to ensure that the protection 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, health-care and social services, provided by qualified personnel, consistent with the guidelines of medical ethics;

8. *Calls upon* States to ensure that national action plans and strategies on the elimination of female genital mutilations are comprehensive and multidisciplinary in scope, 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 to promote their participation, including the participation of affected groups, practising communities and

non-governmental organizations, in the development, implementation and evaluation of such policies and strategies;

9. *Urges* States to take, within the general framework of integration policies and in consultation with affected communities, effective and specific targeted measures for refugee women and women migrants and their communities in order to protect girls from female genital mutilations, including when the practice occurs outside the country of residence;

10. *Calls upon* States to develop information and awareness-raising campaigns and programmes to systematically reach the general public, relevant professionals, families and communities, including through the media and featuring television and radio discussions, on the elimination of female genital mutilations;

11. *Urges* States to pursue a comprehensive, culturally sensitive, systematic approach that incorporates a social perspective and is based on human rights and gender-equality principles 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 mutilations;

12. *Also urges* States to ensure the national implementation of international and regional commitments and obligations undertaken as States parties to various international instruments protecting the full enjoyment of all human rights and the fundamental freedoms of women and girls;

13. *Calls upon* States to develop policies and regulations to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at the national and local levels to monitor adherence to and implementation of these legislative frameworks;

14. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data on all forms of discrimination and violence against girls, especially forms that are underdocumented, such as female genital mutilations, to develop additional indicators so as to effectively measure progress in eliminating the practice and to reinforce the sharing of good practices relating to the prevention and the abandonment of the practice at the subregional and regional levels;

15. *Urges* States to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of policies and programmes and legislative frameworks aimed at eliminating female genital mutilations;

16. *Calls upon* States to develop, support and implement comprehensive and integrated strategies for the prevention of female genital mutilations, including the training of social workers, medical personnel, community and religious leaders and relevant professionals, and to ensure that they provide competent, supportive services and care to women and girls who are at risk of or who have undergone female genital mutilations, and encourage them to report to the appropriate authorities cases in which they believe women or girls are at risk;

17. *Also calls upon* States to support, as part of a comprehensive approach to eliminate female genital mutilations, programmes that engage local community practitioners of female genital mutilations in community-based initiatives for the

abandonment of the practice, including, where relevant, the identification by communities of alternative livelihoods for them;

18. *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 mutilations;

19. *Calls upon* the international community to strongly support, including through increased financial support, a second phase of the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change, which is running until 2017, as well as national programmes focused on the elimination of female genital mutilations;

20. *Stresses* that some progress has been made in combating female genital mutilations 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 statement¹⁵ that female genital mutilations be eliminated within a generation, with some of the main achievements being obtained by 2015, in line with the Millennium Development Goals;

21. *Encourages* men and boys to take positive initiatives and to work in partnership with women and girls to combat violence and discriminatory practices against women and girls, in particular female genital mutilations, through networks, peer programmes, information campaigns and training programmes;

22. *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 mutilations;

23. *Calls upon* States to improve the collection and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data and, where appropriate, 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;

24. *Acknowledges* that intensifying efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations is needed and, in this regard, the importance of giving the issue due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

25. *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 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 mutilations in their country programmes, as appropriate and in accordance with national priorities, in order to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

26. *Renews its request* to the Secretary-General that he submit to the General Assembly, at its seventy-first session, an in-depth multidisciplinary report on the root causes of and contributing factors to the practice of female genital mutilations, its prevalence worldwide and its impact on women and girls, including evidence and data, analysis of progress made to date and action-oriented recommendations for eliminating this practice on the basis of information provided by Member States, relevant actors of the United Nations system working on the issue and other relevant stakeholders.

Draft resolution V
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and
full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for
Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the
General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 68/140 of 18 December 2013, and recalling also the section of resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled “Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women”,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and 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”,² are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,³ the 2005 World Summit,⁴ the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,⁵ the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals⁶ and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Noting that the year 2015 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and welcoming the efforts of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to commemorate this occasion,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and taking

¹ *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, annexes I and II.

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

³ Resolution 55/2.

⁴ Resolution 60/1.

⁵ Resolution 65/1.

⁶ Resolution 68/6.

note with appreciation of all its agreed conclusions, including the agreed conclusions on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls adopted by the Commission at its fifty-eighth session,⁷ and of the need to implement them,

Welcoming also the strengthening of the capacity of UN-Women and its experience in achieving its mandate,

Taking note of the activities carried out by the Fund for Gender Equality and the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women,

Recognizing that the participation and contribution of civil society, in particular women's groups and organizations and other non-governmental organizations, are important to the successful implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, in particular in the lead-up to the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Platform for Action,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, which is relevant in all issues considered by its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, including in resolutions dealing with issues beyond social, humanitarian, cultural, economic and financial matters,

Reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Reaffirming further the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,⁸

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and girls and stereotypical roles of boys and girls, men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address inequality between men and women,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS⁹ and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, adopted at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on AIDS, held on 10 June 2011,¹⁰ in which, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women were recognized as fundamental for reducing the vulnerability of women to HIV and AIDS,

⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2014, Supplement No. 27 (E/2014/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

⁸ Resolution 63/239, annex.

⁹ Resolution S-26/2, annex.

¹⁰ Resolution 65/277, annex.

Welcoming the integration of a gender perspective into the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,¹¹ and in this regard commending UN-Women for its efforts to ensure coherence throughout the United Nations system in its advocacy for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the context of sustainable development, and in particular in the context of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting with appreciation the attention to gender equality and the empowerment of women reflected in the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, entitled “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) (Samoa Pathway)”,¹² and encouraging its appropriate follow-up and implementation,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system,¹³

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stressing the need for their participation therein, including at decision-making levels,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106 (2013) of 24 June 2013 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security and resolution 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;¹⁴

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,¹ the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly² and the declaration adopted on the occasion of the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,¹⁵ and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the

¹¹ Resolution 66/288, annex.

¹² Resolution 69/15, annex.

¹³ [A/69/346](#).

¹⁴ [A/69/182](#).

¹⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum ([E/2010/27](#) and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women¹⁶ are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, welcomes in this regard the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocol thereto¹⁷ and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Reiterates* the importance and value of the mandate of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and welcomes the Entity's leadership in providing a strong voice for women and girls at all levels;

7. *Reaffirms* the important role of UN-Women in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women;

8. *Notes with appreciation* the important and extensive work of UN-Women for more effective and coherent gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system, and calls upon UN-Women to continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work and its efforts to accelerate action across the United Nations system;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment of UN-Women to support Member States in their efforts to develop and strengthen norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as to integrate gender perspectives into sectoral policy and normative frameworks, and encourages the Entity to continue to promote the need to mainstream and strengthen a gender perspective in the work of intergovernmental bodies and processes and the opportunities therein,

¹⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

and to provide technical assistance, at the request of Member States, in strengthening a gender perspective in resolutions and other outcomes;

10. *Urges* Member States to increase funding for the budget of UN-Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions, recognizing the importance of adequate funding in enabling UN-Women to implement its strategic plan promptly and effectively and that the mobilization of financial resources for achieving its goals still remains a challenge;

11. *Encourages* all actors, including Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and, as applicable, to carry out the recommendations of the Commission, welcomes in this regard the Commission's continued sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to full implementation at the national and international levels and the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes, and encourages the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system, as appropriate, to incorporate the outcomes of the Commission into their work;

12. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify and accelerate action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, nearly 20 years after their adoption, and of the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

13. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys to take an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any violence against women, and in this regard encourages Member States to continue to support the Secretary-General's ongoing campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the UN-Women social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO — UNiTE to End Violence against Women";

14. *Reiterates its call upon* the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, through forums such as the high-level political forum on sustainable development and functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as into all United Nations summits,

conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes, including those of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012;

15. *Calls upon* States to ensure that intergovernmental processes, such as the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, the third International Conference on Financing for Development and the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), consistently address gender perspectives in their preparatory processes and outcomes, and also calls upon States to ensure the reflection of a gender perspective in the discussions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as they elaborate a new climate change agreement, to be adopted in 2015;

16. *Reiterates* that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

17. *Recalls* its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals¹⁸ and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly;

18. *Urges* States to build on the lessons from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals as the new post-2015 development agenda is being shaped, also urges States to tackle critical remaining challenges through a transformative and comprehensive approach, and calls for gender equality, the empowerment of women and the human rights of women and girls to be reflected as a stand-alone goal and to be integrated through targets and indicators into all goals of any new development framework;

19. *Requests* the entities of the United Nations system to systematically incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work, within their mandates, and, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and in this regard encourages UN-Women to continue to use concrete results-based reporting mechanisms and to ensure coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of its work;

20. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

21. *Calls upon* Governments and the United Nations system to encourage women's groups and other non-governmental organizations specializing in gender equality and the empowerment of women to participate in intergovernmental processes, including through increased outreach, funding and capacity-building;

¹⁸ [A/68/970](#) and Corr.1.

22. *Calls upon* the intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system to systematically request the inclusion of a gender perspective in reports of the Secretary-General and other inputs to intergovernmental processes;

23. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through gender-sensitive analysis and the provision of data disaggregated by sex and age and that conclusions and recommendations for further action address the different situations and needs of women and men and girls and boys, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to convey the importance of reflecting a gender perspective to all stakeholders who provide inputs to his reports;

24. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN-Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women through multisectoral efforts and partnerships;

25. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially those in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from developing and least developed countries, countries with economies in transition and underrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure the implementation of measures, including temporary special measures, to accelerate progress, and managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

27. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-ninth session and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, with recommendations for accelerating progress and up-to-date statistics to

be provided annually by the United Nations entities, including the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, as well as information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

28. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international, regional, national and local levels, including through improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes and by achieving gender balance;

29. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

30. *Encourages* its Main Committees and subsidiary bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, particularly in the light of the analysis contained in the report of the Secretary-General¹³ and of the cross-cutting nature of gender equality and the empowerment of women, to make further progress in the integration of a gender perspective into their work;

31. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of the United Nations system the findings of his report in order to strengthen follow-up on these findings and accelerate the implementation of the present resolution;

32. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council resolution 2013/18 of 24 July 2013, in which the Council decided that, at its fifty-ninth session, in 2015, the Commission on the Status of Women would undertake a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, including current challenges that affect the implementation of the Platform for Action and the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, as well as opportunities for strengthening gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post 2015 development agenda through the integration of a gender perspective;

33. *Urges* all States and all other stakeholders, in that context, to undertake comprehensive reviews of the progress made and challenges encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, with a view to strengthening and accelerating their full implementation, and to consider appropriate commemorative activities for the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

34. *Encourages* States and all stakeholders to strengthen the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all sectors and in all areas of development, including through the national and regional preparations for the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

35. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue to support and contribute to the review and appraisal process of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the international, regional, national and local levels, encourages UN-Women to continue its efforts in support of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the central role it is playing in mobilizing States, civil society, the United Nations system, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders at all levels, including through its activities, campaigns and special events on the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Programme of Action, aimed at strengthening political will and commitment, social mobilization, awareness-raising and revitalized public debates, a strengthened evidence base and knowledge generation, and encourages all stakeholders to ensure enhanced and sufficient resources to achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and the realization of women's full enjoyment of all human rights;

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly under the item entitled "Advancement of women", and to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance and accelerate implementation.

35. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report considered by the General Assembly in connection with the advancement of women

The General Assembly decides to take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the summary report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the panel discussions on gender stereotyping and on women's human rights in the context of the sustainable development agenda.¹

¹ [A/69/369](#).