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Agenda item 26

Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Shalini **Gungaram** (*Mauritius*)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2022, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-seventh session the item entitled “Advancement of women” and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee heard introductory statements and held interactive dialogues and a general discussion on the item at its 7th to 10th and 15th meetings, on 4, 6 and 11 October 2022, and considered proposals and took action on the item at its 46th and 50th meetings, on 10 and 15 November 2022. An account of the Committee’s consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records.¹

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 seventy-ninth, eightieth and eighty-first sessions ([A/77/38](#));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on intensifying efforts to end obstetric fistula within a decade ([A/77/229](#));

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls: crises as a risk multiplier ([A/77/292](#));

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls ([A/77/302](#));

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation ([A/77/312](#));

¹ [A/C.3/77/SR.7](#), [A/C.3/77/SR.8](#), [A/C.3/77/SR.9](#), [A/C.3/77/SR.10](#), [A/C.3/77/SR.15](#), [A/C.3/77/SR.46](#) and [A/C.3/77/SR.50](#).



(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences ([A/77/136](#)).

4. At the 7th meeting, on 4 October, the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy, Programme, Civil Society and Intergovernmental Support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Latvia, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Chile, China, the Syrian Arab Republic, the European Union, Mexico, the United States of America and Malaysia.

5. At the same meeting, the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Programme of the United Nations Population Fund made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Norway, Mexico, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Colombia.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Spain, Japan, Malaysia, Germany, Mexico, Chile, Portugal and the European Union.

7. Also at the 7th meeting, the Chair of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Costa Rica, Malaysia, the United States of America, Mexico, Belgium, the European Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Syrian Arab Republic.

8. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences made an introductory statement and responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Romania, Cuba, the Russian Federation, Australia, the Netherlands, Mexico, Colombia, Lebanon, Ireland, Belgium, the United States of America, Luxembourg, Estonia (on behalf of the Nordic and Baltic countries), Slovenia, Liechtenstein, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Pakistan, India, Brazil, Qatar and the European Union, as well as by the observer for the Sovereign Order of Malta.

9. At the 46th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of the United States of America made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions before the Committee.

10. At the 50th meeting, on 15 November 2022, the representative of Guatemala made a statement with regard to draft resolutions under agenda items 26 and 64 (a).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution [A/C.3/77/L.21/Rev.1](#) and amendments thereto contained in documents [A/C.3/77/L.56](#), [A/C.3/77/L.57](#), [A/C.3/77/L.58](#), [A/C.3/77/L.59](#), [A/C.3/77/L.60](#), [A/C.3/77/L.61](#), [A/C.3/77/L.62](#), [A/C.3/77/L.63](#), [A/C.3/77/L.64](#) and [A/C.3/77/L.65](#)

11. At the 46th meeting, on 10 November 2022, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: gender stereotypes and negative social norms” ([A/C.3/77/L.21/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational

State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Andorra, El Salvador, Fiji, Israel, the Marshall Islands, Nepal, Palau, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Serbia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tunisia and Türkiye joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

12. At the same meeting, Angola, the Bahamas, the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Morocco, Papua New Guinea and South Sudan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

13. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Netherlands made a statement and orally revised draft resolution [A/C.3/77/L.21/Rev.1](#) by inserting a new preambular paragraph after the fourteenth preambular paragraph.

Action on the amendments contained in documents [A/C.3/77/L.56](#), [A/C.3/77/L.57](#), [A/C.3/77/L.58](#), [A/C.3/77/L.59](#), [A/C.3/77/L.60](#), [A/C.3/77/L.61](#), [A/C.3/77/L.62](#), [A/C.3/77/L.63](#), [A/C.3/77/L.64](#) and [A/C.3/77/L.65](#)

14. At the 46th meeting, on 10 November, the Chair (Dominican Republic) drew the attention of the Committee to the amendments to draft resolution [A/C.3/77/L.21/Rev.1](#) submitted by Guatemala, as contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.56](#); by the Russian Federation, as contained in documents [A/C.3/77/L.57](#), [A/C.3/77/L.58](#), [A/C.3/77/L.59](#) and [A/C.3/77/L.60](#); by Egypt, Libya, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, as contained in documents [A/C.3/77/L.61](#) and [A/C.3/77/L.62](#); by Egypt, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, as contained in documents [A/C.3/77/L.63](#) and [A/C.3/77/L.65](#); and by Egypt, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, as contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.64](#).

15. At the same meeting, the representative of Guatemala made a statement in connection with the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.56](#).

16. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation made a statement in connection with the amendments contained in documents [A/C.3/77/L.57](#), [A/C.3/77/L.58](#), [A/C.3/77/L.59](#) and [A/C.3/77/L.60](#).

17. Also at the 46th meeting, the representative of Egypt made a statement in connection with the amendments contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.61](#), [A/C.3/77/L.62](#), [A/C.3/77/L.63](#), [A/C.3/77/L.64](#) and [A/C.3/77/L.65](#), and announced the withdrawal of the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.63](#) following the oral revision of draft resolution [A/C.3/77/L.21/Rev.1](#).

Action on the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.56](#)

18. At the 46th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee was informed that Nigeria had joined in sponsoring the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.56](#).

19. At the same meeting, Cameroon joined in sponsoring the amendment.

20. Also at the same meeting, the Committee rejected the amendment by a recorded vote of 95 to 36, with 31 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Bahrain, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Congo, Djibouti, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia, Oman, Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, South Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan.

Action on the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.57](#)

21. At the 46th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee was informed that Belarus and the Syrian Arab Republic had joined in sponsoring the amendment contained in document [A/C.3.77/L.57](#).

22. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the amendment by a recorded vote of 96 to 30, with 35 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Belarus, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Singapore, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Viet Nam.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France,

Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining:

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Central African Republic, Congo, Djibouti, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Namibia, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

Action on the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.58](#)

23. At the 46th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee was informed that Belarus and the Syrian Arab Republic had joined in sponsoring the amendment contained in document [A/C.3.77/L.58](#).

24. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the amendment by a recorded vote of 99 to 37, with 27 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Belarus, Cameroon, Central African Republic, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining:

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Congo, Djibouti, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Yemen.

Action on the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.59](#)

25. At the 46th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee was informed that Belarus, Egypt and the Syrian Arab Republic had joined in sponsoring the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.59](#).

26. At the same meeting, Cameroon joined in sponsoring the amendment.

27. Also at the same meeting, the Committee rejected the amendment by a recorded vote of 104 to 41, with 18 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining:

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Congo, Djibouti, Jamaica, Jordan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Madagascar, Oman, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Sudan, Suriname, Togo, United Arab Emirates.

Action on the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.60](#)

28. At the 46th meeting, the Committee was informed that Belarus and the Syrian Arab Republic had joined in sponsoring the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.60](#).

29. At the same meeting, Cameroon, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Senegal joined in sponsoring the amendment.

30. Also at the same meeting, the Committee rejected the amendment by a recorded vote of 95 to 49, with 18 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining:

Bahrain, Bangladesh, China, Congo, Djibouti, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Madagascar, Oman, Paraguay, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Togo, United Arab Emirates.

Action on the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.61](#)

31. At the 46th meeting, the Committee was informed that Algeria, Belarus and the Syrian Arab Republic had joined in sponsoring the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.61](#).

32. At the same meeting, Cameroon joined in sponsoring the amendment.

33. Also at the same meeting, the Committee rejected the amendment by a recorded vote of 95 to 38, with 26 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Bahrain, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining:

Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, China, Congo, Djibouti, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Philippines, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Singapore, South Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam.

Action on the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.62](#)

34. At the 46th meeting, on 10 November 2022, the Committee was informed that Algeria, Belarus, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic had joined in sponsoring the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.62](#).

35. At the same meeting, Senegal joined in sponsoring the amendment.

36. Also at the same meeting, the Committee rejected the amendment by a recorded vote of 95 to 49, with 17 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea,

Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining:

Angola, Central African Republic, China, Congo, Djibouti, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, South Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Tunisia.

Action on the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.64](#)

37. At the 46th meeting, on 10 November 2022, the Committee was informed that Algeria, Belarus and the Syrian Arab Republic had joined in sponsoring the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.64](#).

38. Also at the same meeting, the Committee rejected the amendment by a recorded vote of 88 to 57, with 14 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining:

Brazil, Central African Republic, China, Congo, Djibouti, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mauritius, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Suriname, Togo, Viet Nam.

Action on the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.65](#)

39. At the 46th meeting, on 10 November 2022, the Committee was informed that Algeria, Oman, the Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic had joined in sponsoring the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/77/L.65](#).

40. At the same meeting, Cameroon, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Senegal joined in sponsoring the amendment.

41. Also at the same meeting, the Committee rejected the amendment by a recorded vote of 86 to 61, with 14 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining:

Brazil, Central African Republic, China, Congo, Djibouti, India, Kenya, Kiribati, Madagascar, Paraguay, Philippines, Samoa, Suriname, Togo.

42. Before the votes on the amendments, statements in explanation of vote were made by the representatives of France, Czechia (on behalf of the European Union), Indonesia, Argentina, Finland (on behalf of the Nordic and Baltic countries), Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the Sudan, Iraq, Senegal and Australia (also on behalf of Canada, Ireland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland).

Action on draft resolution [A/C.3/77/L.21/Rev.1](#), as orally revised and as a whole

43. At its 46th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/77/L.21/Rev.1](#), as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 166 to none, with 14 abstentions (see para. 61, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia,

Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Algeria, Belarus, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Gabon, Gambia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libya, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Syrian Arab Republic.

44. Before the vote, the representatives of the Russian Federation, Guatemala and the Islamic Republic of Iran made statements in explanation of vote, and the representatives of the Netherlands (also on behalf of France), Argentina, Czechia (on behalf of the European Union), Colombia, Chile, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay made statements.

45. After the vote, the representatives of Eritrea, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), Libya, Iraq, Nicaragua, Indonesia, Mali, Pakistan, Egypt, Belarus, Bangladesh, Cameroon, China, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Yemen, Nigeria, the Sudan and Mauritania made statements in explanation of vote, and the representatives of Australia (also on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland), Mexico and Canada, as well as the observer for the Holy See, made statements.

B. Draft resolution [A/C.3/77/L.6/Rev.1](#)

46. At the 50th meeting, on 15 November 2022, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Trafficking in women and girls" ([A/C.3/77/L.6/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Canada, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Honduras, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Uganda, the United States of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Argentina,

Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Maldives, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Türkiye, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

47. At the same meeting, the Bahamas and Tajikistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

48. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines made a statement.

49. Also at the 50th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/77/L.6/Rev.1](#) (see para. 61, draft resolution II).

50. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Senegal and Australia. After the adoption, statements were made by the representatives of Belarus, Hungary, Italy, Saudi Arabia (also on behalf of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar), Yemen, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Algeria, as well as by the observer for the Holy See.

C. Draft resolution [A/C.3/77/L.18/Rev.1](#)

51. At the 50th meeting, on 15 November 2022, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation” ([A/C.3/77/L.18/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, China, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte D’Ivoire, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Israel, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, the Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, the United States of America and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

52. At the same meeting, Albania, the Bahamas, Haiti and Timor-Leste joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

53. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Burkina Faso, on behalf of the Group of African States, made a statement.

54. Also at the 50th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/77/L.18/Rev.1](#) (see para. 61, draft resolution III).

55. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia (also on behalf of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar) and Mexico, as well as by the observer for the Holy See.

D. Draft resolution [A/C.3/77/L.22](#)

56. At the 50th meeting, on 15 November 2022, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula” ([A/C.3/77/L.22](#)), which was submitted by Senegal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States). Subsequently, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

57. At the same meeting, Albania, the Bahamas, Haiti and North Macedonia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

58. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Senegal, on behalf of the Group of African States, made a statement.

59. Also at the 50th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/77/L.22](#) (see para. 61, draft resolution IV).

60. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Islamic Republic of Iran. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), Mexico and Malaysia.

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

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

Draft resolution I

Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: gender stereotypes and negative social norm

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, [67/144](#) of 20 December 2012 and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women, as well as its resolutions [69/147](#) of 18 December 2014, [71/170](#) of 19 December 2016, [73/148](#) of 17 December 2018 and [75/161](#) of 16 December 2020 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹ and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,²

Reaffirming also the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming further that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁴ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁵ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,⁶ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁷ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto,⁸

Reaffirming further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,⁹ the Beijing Declaration¹⁰ and Platform for Action,¹¹ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development¹² and the outcomes of their review conferences, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,¹³

Welcoming the commitment to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁴

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

² [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

³ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁶ Ibid., *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁷ Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁸ Ibid., vols. 1577, 2171, 2173 and 2983, No. 27531.

⁹ Resolution [48/104](#).

¹⁰ *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.

¹¹ Ibid., annex II.

¹² *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.

¹³ Resolution [61/295](#), annex.

¹⁴ Resolution [70/1](#).

and in the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-sixth session¹⁵ and previous sessions, recognizing that women play a vital role as agents of change for sustainable development, and acknowledging that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is crucial to making progress across all Sustainable Development Goals and targets,

Recalling all previous agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, including at its sixty-fifth session, on 26 March 2021, on women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,¹⁶ and at its fifty-seventh session, on 15 March 2013, on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls,¹⁷ taking note of all international, regional and national initiatives in this regard, such as the Generation Equality Forum, which was convened by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and co-chaired by France and Mexico, in partnership with civil society,

Recalling also the commitment to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation, contained in Sustainable Development Goal 5, in particular targets 5.2 and 5.3, the commitment to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, contained in Sustainable Development Goal 16, and the commitment to leave no one behind,

Acknowledging the importance of combating trafficking in persons in order to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and in this regard stressing the importance of the 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,¹⁸ as well as of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,¹⁹ and reaffirming the obligation to take or strengthen measures, including through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, to alleviate the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of equal opportunity,

Deeply concerned about the continued prevalence of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, offline and online, which is underrecognized and underreported, particularly at the community level, and its pervasiveness, which reflects discriminatory norms that reinforce stereotypes, including gender stereotypes and negative social norms, and gender inequality and the corresponding impunity and lack of accountability, reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres in all regions of the world, and re-emphasizing that violence against women and girls violates, and impairs their full enjoyment of, all human rights,

Emphasizing that domestic violence against women and girls of all social strata across the world is a violation, abuse or impairment of the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and, as such, is unacceptable, and gravely concerned

¹⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2022, Supplement No. 7 (E/2022/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 2021, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2021/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 2013, *Supplement No. 7 (E/2013/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

¹⁹ Resolution [64/293](#).

that domestic violence, including intimate partner violence and marital rape, remains the most prevalent and least visible form of violence,

Deeply concerned by the impact of historical and structural inequalities, unequal power relations, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, perceptions and customs and disregard for women and girls' dignity, integrity and autonomy, that are among the primary causes of gender-based violence and harmful practices against women and girls and that reinforce the lower status of girls and adolescent girls in society,

Recognizing that violence against women and girls is one of the fundamental social, political and economic means by which the position of women with respect to men is regarded as subordinate and their stereotyped roles are perpetuated, and that this violence is rooted in gender stereotypes and negative social norms, such as the ideology of men's entitlement and privilege over women, and perceptions of masculinity, including the need to assert male control or power, leading to the justification, normalization, condonement and perpetuation of violence and stigmatization of victims and survivors,

Recognizing also the challenges and obstacles to eliminating discriminatory attitudes, gender stereotypes and negative social norms that perpetuate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to eliminate gender inequality,

Expressing deep concern at the continuing reports of grave abuses and violence committed against migrant women and girls, including gender-based violence, sexual violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, domestic violence, gender-related killing of women and girls, including femicide, racist and xenophobic acts and expressions, discrimination, abusive labour practices, exploitative conditions of work and trafficking in persons, including forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, while taking into account the particular difficulties in accessing justice that may be faced by women migrant workers and acknowledging the challenges in recognizing their positive contributions,

Expressing its concern that incidents of racial and religious intolerance, discrimination and related violence against women and girls, because of negative racial and religious stereotyping, continue to rise around the world, and condemning, in this context, any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, and urging States to take effective measures, consistent with their obligations under international human rights law, to address and combat such incidents,

Deeply concerned that women and girls with disabilities face an increased risk of violence based on stereotypes that dehumanize, infantilize, objectify, exclude or isolate them,

Reaffirming the right to freely choose a spouse, to enter into marriage only with free and full consent and to have control over and to decide freely and responsibly on matters relating to sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, and recognizing that equal relationships in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including full respect for dignity, integrity and autonomy, are key to preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls,

Recognizing that stereotypes portraying the role and the value of women solely as mothers and wives may contribute to discrimination and violence against women and girls, and in particular against widows, female heads of household, single and divorced women, women without children and women experiencing infertility,

Recognizing also that those who are exposed to or experience violence in childhood are at increased risk of becoming perpetrators of violence against women and girls and more likely to experience violence later in life, and therefore recognizing the need to address the root causes of violence, including gender stereotypes and negative social norms, in order to help to stop the intergenerational cycle of violence,

Recognizing further the contributions of family members in combating violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, and that in preventing such violence family members can play an important role, and emphasizing men's responsibilities as partners, parents and caregivers in the equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, as a means of enabling women to increase their participation in decision-making in public life and in the labour market,

Expressing concern at institutional and structural discrimination against all women and girls, such as laws, policies, regulations, programmes, administrative procedures or structures, services and practices that directly or indirectly restrict access to institutions, property and landownership, inheritance, nationality, health care and services, education, justice, women's employment and access to credit, which place them at increased risk of violence, and compound the violence experienced, and constitute a major impediment to their full, equal, meaningful and effective participation in society, as well as economic and political life,

Recognizing that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social and economic policies and from the benefits of education and sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women and girls impedes the social and economic and therefore the sustainable development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals,

Recognizing also the importance of relevant International Labour Organization standards related to the realization of women's right to work and rights at work which are critical for women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life and the elimination of violence, recalling the decent work agenda of the International Labour Organization and the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and noting the importance of their effective implementation,

Stressing the need to eliminate gender stereotypes and negative social norms in the world of work that condone violence against women and girls, including through, but not limited to, quality education, training and awareness-raising campaigns, associated with a change in attitudes and increased knowledge about sexual harassment, particularly among men and boys, as well as ensuring equal pay for work of equal value and reaffirming the necessity of recognizing, valuing, reducing and redistributing unpaid care and domestic work,

Recognizing that many women who are pregnant and/or mothers face discrimination in the workplace based on gender stereotypes and negative social norms, and noting that such discriminatory attitudes can negatively affect all women in the world of work,

Recognizing also that educational opportunities, as well as equal access to gender-responsive education addressing consent, respecting boundaries and what constitutes unacceptable behaviour and how to report it, are effective ways to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, to combat gender stereotypes and negative social norms, and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, women's formal employment and economic opportunities and their

active participation in economic, social and cultural development, governance and decision-making,

Recognizing further the need to provide or strengthen human rights education and training for health-care workers, the police, law enforcement officers and prison staff, and other relevant professions, so as to combat gender stereotypes and negative social norms that condone violence against women and girls,

Recognizing that images, videos and other content in the media and digital contexts of women and girls and violence against them, in particular those that depict rape, sexual exploitation or sexual slavery, are factors contributing to the continued prevalence of such violence, and that the arts, media and other forms of communication can exacerbate, maintain or combat gender stereotypes and negative social norms,

Recognizing also that the growing impact of violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment and abuse, in digital contexts, especially on social media, its impunity and the lack of legislative and preventive measures and remedies underline the need for action by Member States, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, and that such violence may include stalking, death threats and threats of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as related trends against women and girls in digital contexts, such as trolling, cyberbullying and other forms of cyberharassment, including unwanted verbal or non-verbal conduct of a sexual nature, arbitrary or unlawful surveillance and tracking, trafficking in persons, extortion, censorship and the hacking of digital accounts, mobile telephones and other electronic devices, limiting women's equal participation in public life, including through discrediting or silencing women and girls, compromising their health, emotional and psychological well-being and safety and/or inciting other violations and abuses against them,

Noting the fact that several countries have criminalized the non-consensual online dissemination of intimate or sexually explicit images of adult persons, ensuring that victims do not have to rely solely on other criminal law provisions,

Alarmed by the fact that violence against women and girls, including gender-related killings of women and girls, also known as femicide, which constitutes an extreme form of violence against women and girls, is among the least punished crimes owing to, inter alia, gender bias among the judiciary and law enforcement, and recognizing the key role of the criminal justice system, including law enforcement officials, in preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, including in ending impunity for such crimes,

Underscoring that gender stereotypes and negative social norms, including when leading to shame or stigma, and all forms of discrimination, including structural discrimination, as well as discriminatory legal, practical and structural barriers to access to justice and legal services, a lack of information and awareness, the fear of reprisals, gender bias in the judiciary and law enforcement, risk of revictimization, harassment and possible retribution, persisting impunity, insufficient recourse for victims of violence against women and girls, and negative economic consequences, such as loss of livelihood or reduced income for women, prevent many women and girls from reporting or acting as witnesses and from seeking redress and justice for these crimes,

Recognizing that women human rights defenders, politicians, journalists and other media workers, and women in leadership positions that challenge accepted sociocultural norms, traditions, perceptions and stereotypes, including gender stereotypes and negative social norms, are at greater risk of facing certain forms of violence, and gravely concerned that impunity for violations and abuses against them

persists owing to factors such as a lack of reporting, documentation, investigation and access to justice, social barriers and constraints with regard to addressing sexual and gender-based violence and the stigmatization that may result from such violations and abuses,

Deeply concerned that all women and girls, especially in developing countries, including small island developing States, and particularly those in vulnerable situations, are often disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, extreme weather events and natural disasters and other environmental issues, which may exacerbate existing structural inequalities as well as violence against women and girls and harmful practices, including the incidence of child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and emphasizing the lack of sufficient data and understanding of the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on violence against women and girls,

Recognizing that all women and girls, especially victims and survivors of all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, living in areas affected by complex humanitarian emergencies and in areas affected by terrorism and conflict, have particular needs, including regarding their physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health, and that global health threats, climate change, more frequent and intense natural disasters, conflicts, violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism, and related humanitarian crises and the forced displacement of people threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades and have particular negative impacts on women and girls that need to be comprehensively assessed and addressed,

Stressing that men and boys need to support and take concrete actions for more equal power relations, and therefore stressing the need to fully engage men and boys as strategic partners, allies and beneficiaries in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and in preventing and eliminating all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, including by combating gender stereotypes and negative social norms, such as patriarchal masculinity, sexism and misogyny,

Recognizing the need to promote the full, effective, equal and meaningful participation of women in all their diversity and women's and girls' rights' organizations and women's organizations, including victims and survivors of violence, in the development, implementation and evaluation of gender-responsive policies, regulations and legislation designed to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to allow civil society to operate freely and safely,

1. *Strongly condemns* all forms of violence against all women and girls, which often occur in a continuum and throughout the life course, and their persistence and pervasiveness, recognizing that they are an impediment to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and to the full realization of their human rights;

2. *Stresses* that "violence against women and girls" means any act of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic 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, online and offline, and notes the economic and social harm caused by such violence;

3. *Urges* States to strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and girls, both offline and online, and reaffirms that they should not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its

elimination and should pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, a policy of eliminating all forms of violence against women, as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

4. *Calls upon* States to address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, which place women and girls at greater risk of exploitation, violence and abuse, to implement measures to prevent and eliminate gender stereotypes, negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours that cause or perpetuate discrimination and violence against women and girls and to ensure their participation and leadership in society;

5. *Urges* States to take comprehensive, multisectoral, coordinated, effective and gender-responsive measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls and to address structural and underlying causes and risk factors, including by:

(a) Designing and implementing legislation and policies to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and harmful practices against all women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence, including intimate partner violence and marital rape, online violence, sexual harassment, gender-related killing of women and girls, including femicide and female infanticide, child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, and to end impunity for such cases;

(b) Addressing and eliminating the root causes of gender inequality, including all forms of discrimination against women and girls, patriarchal values, unequal power relations, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, perceptions and customs and harmful social norms, attitudes and behaviours, which justify, normalize, condone or perpetuate violence against women and girls and stigmatize victims and survivors;

(c) Preventing and eliminating, in all public and private spheres, discrimination, gender stereotypes, negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours and unequal power relations by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys, and that underlie and perpetuate male domination, by designing and implementing gender-responsive policies, regulations and legislation that are aimed at eliminating discriminatory attitudes and social and cultural patterns of conduct that condone violence against all women and girls;

(d) Addressing and eliminating gender stereotypes and negative social norms that perpetuate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, which reveal themselves in a differentiated manner for women and girls and can be among the factors leading to a deterioration in their living conditions, poverty, violence, multiple forms of discrimination and limitation or denial of their human rights;

(e) Eliminating gender stereotypes and negative social norms that can lead to violence against migrant women and girls, including women migrant workers, by addressing the structural and underlying causes of all forms of violence against them, including through education and the dissemination of information to combat misinformation and stigma against them, by acknowledging their positive contributions, thereby combating negative perceptions of them, and by raising awareness of gender equality issues and promoting their economic empowerment and access to decent work;

(f) Taking measures to empower women by, inter alia, strengthening their economic autonomy and ensuring their full, effective, equal and meaningful participation in society and in decision-making processes by adopting and implementing social and economic policies that guarantee women full and equal access to opportunities, resources and basic services such as quality education and

training and affordable and adequate public and social services, as well as full and equal access to financial, natural and productive resources and decent work, equal pay for work of equal value, and full and equal rights to own and have access to and control over land and other property, and guaranteeing women's and girls' inheritance rights, 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;

(g) Enacting or strengthening and enforcing laws and policies to eliminate all forms of violence and harassment against women of all ages in the world of work, including by eliminating gender stereotypes and negative social norms;

(h) Adopting measures to recognize, reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care, informal and domestic work and to tackle the persisting feminization of poverty, including through poverty eradication measures, labour policies, public services and social protection programmes, and to address the discrimination and gender inequality, including gender stereotypes and negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours and unequal power relations in which women and girls are viewed as subordinate to men and boys, that are at the root of these imbalances;

(i) 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, the Beijing Platform for Action 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;

(j) Developing and implementing programmes that aim to prevent and eliminate gender disparities in enrolment and gender stereotypes and negative social norms in education systems, curricula and materials, whether derived from any discriminatory practices, social or cultural attitudes or legal and economic circumstances;

(k) Implementing, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, effective violence prevention and response activities in schools and communities, educating children from a young age regarding the importance of treating all people with dignity and respect, and designing educational programmes and teaching materials that support consent, non-violent behaviour, respect for boundaries and what constitutes unacceptable behaviour and how to report it, that eliminate gender stereotypes and negative social norms, build self-esteem and informed decision-making and communication skills and promote the development of respectful relationships based on gender equality, inclusion and respect for human rights;

(l) Developing policies and programmes with the support, where appropriate, of international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations, giving priority to formal, informal and non-formal education programmes, including scientifically accurate and age-appropriate comprehensive education that is relevant

to cultural contexts, that targets stereotyped gender roles and promotes the values of gender equality and non-discrimination, including positive masculinities, and that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, and with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the best interests of the child as their basic concern, information on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention, gender equality and women's empowerment, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development, including menstrual health, and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and foster informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers, in order to, inter alia, enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection and other risks;

(m) Removing barriers, including political, legal, cultural, social, economic, institutional and religious ones, preventing women's full, equal, effective and meaningful participation in leadership and political and other decision-making positions, taking into account that promoting women to leadership positions may significantly reduce the risk of violence against women and girls and promoting the full, effective, equal and meaningful participation of women and women's organizations, including victims and survivors of violence, in the development, implementation and evaluation of gender-responsive policies, regulations and legislation designed to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to allow civil society to operate freely and safely without fear of intimidation or reprisals;

(n) Preventing, addressing and prohibiting gender-based violence, including sexual harassment, against all women and girls in public and political life, including women in leadership positions, journalists and other media workers, feminists and women human rights defenders, including through practical steps to prevent threats, harassment and violence, and to combat impunity by ensuring that those responsible for violations and abuses, including sexual and gender-based violence and threats, including in digital contexts, are promptly brought to justice and held accountable through impartial investigations;

(o) Promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of young women and, as appropriate, adolescent girls in decision-making processes by addressing gender-specific barriers and by promoting and enabling spaces where they can express their views of all matters relevant to them, ensuring their full and equal access to quality education, technology and skills development, leadership and mentorship programmes, increased technical and financial support, and protection from all forms of violence and discrimination;

(p) Preventing, addressing and prohibiting all forms of discrimination, intimidation, harassment and violence, both offline and online, that prevent women and girls from fully enjoying all their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and taking all measures to address the gender digital divide and ensure equal access of women and girls to information and communications technology design and consumption, promoting digital, media and information literacy and connectivity to enable the participation of all women and girls in education and training, while noting with concern that new technological developments can perpetuate existing patterns of inequality and discrimination, including in the algorithms used in artificial intelligence-based solutions;

(q) Adopting and implementing effective measures to encourage the media to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, including the harmful and stereotypical portrayal of women or specific groups of women, from their activities,

practices and output, including those perpetuated by advertisements, online and in other digital environments, that foster gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and inequality, and to refrain from presenting women and girls as inferior beings and exploiting them as sexual objects and commodities;

(r) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in the conceptualization, development and implementation of digital technologies and related policies and promote the participation of women in order to address violence and discrimination against women and girls in digital contexts, inter alia by encouraging digital technology companies, including Internet service providers, to respect standards and implement transparent and accessible reporting mechanisms;

(s) Taking appropriate measures for the prevention of all forms of violence, intimidation, threats and attacks against women online and through digital technologies, and to protect them in online spaces, and considering adopting laws, policies and practices that protect them from defamation and hate speech while also respecting their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(t) 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 and conflict-related sexual violence, are prioritized and effectively addressed and are centred on victims and survivors, while respecting the rights and prioritizing the needs of survivors, including groups that are particularly at risk or may be specifically targeted, including through the investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators and the strengthening of national justice mechanisms to end impunity, the removal of barriers to women's and girls' access to justice, the establishment of complaint and reporting mechanisms and the provision of support and services to victims and survivors;

(u) Addressing gender stereotypes and negative social norms in order to create an enabling environment for women's and girls' empowerment in the context of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters, including in situations of response to extreme weather events;

(v) Engaging, educating, encouraging and supporting men and boys to be positive role models for gender equality and to promote respectful relationships, to refrain from and condemn all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, to increase their understanding of the harmful effects of violence for the victim/survivor and society as a whole, and to ensure that they take responsibility and are held accountable for behaviour, including for behaviour that perpetuates gender stereotypes and negative social norms, including misconceptions about masculinities that underlie discrimination and violence against women and girls, and that men and boys take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behaviour and for equitable sharing of responsibilities with respect to care and household work;

(w) Designing, implementing and regularly monitoring the impact of national policies, programmes and strategies that address the roles and responsibilities of men and boys, including through combating social-cultural norms and traditional and customary practices that condone violence against all women and girls, counteracting attitudes by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys or as having stereotyped gender roles that perpetuate practices involving violence or coercion, and aiming to ensure the equal sharing of responsibilities within households in unpaid care and domestic work, including through parental leave policies, and increased flexibility in working arrangements which would facilitate the equal sharing of responsibilities;

(x) Recognizing the importance of working with men and boys to combat gender stereotypes and negative social norms and unequal power relations, ensuring

that all policies and programmes on preventing and ending violence against women and girls aimed at engaging men and boys are designed and promoted with the ultimate objectives of ensuring that the concerns of all women and girls, their rights, their empowerment, their safety and their voices and women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making and political agendas at all levels are prioritized;

(y) Holding persons in positions of authority, whether in public or private environments, such as teachers, religious and community leaders, traditional authorities, politicians and law enforcement officials, accountable for not complying with and/or upholding laws and regulations relating to violence against women and girls, in order to prevent and respond to such violence in a gender-responsive manner, to end impunity and to avoid the abuse of power leading to violence against women and girls and the revictimization of victims/survivors of such violence;

6. *Also urges* States to take immediate and effective action to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls and to support and protect all victims and survivors by:

(a) Exercising due diligence and ensuring legislation to prevent, investigate, prosecute and hold to account the perpetrators of all forms of violence against women and girls, to eliminate impunity and to provide for effective access to appropriate remedies and reparations for victims and survivors, ensuring the protection of women and girls, including adequate enforcement of civil remedies, orders of protection and criminal sanctions, and the provision of shelters, mental health and psychosocial services, counselling, health-care services and other types of support services, in order to avoid revictimization, promoting an empowering environment, and in doing so contributing to the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls subjected to violence;

(b) Removing all barriers to women's access to justice and accountability mechanisms and ensuring that they all have access to information about their rights as well as 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 victim-centred remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including formal and appropriate informal justice mechanisms, as provided for by national legislation and, where necessary, the adoption of national legislation, bearing in mind that victims and survivors may be subjected to further discrimination or reprisals;

(c) Providing relevant, comprehensive and victim-centred legal protection in full respect of human rights to support and assist victims and survivors of all forms of violence, in a gender-responsive manner, including victim and witness protection from reprisals for bringing complaints or giving evidence, within the framework of their national legal systems, including, as appropriate, legislative or other measures, such as addressing gender stereotypes and negative social norms throughout the criminal and civil justice system and law enforcement, taking into account women and girls facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

(d) Ensuring that services and programmes designed to protect women and girls from violence are accessible to women and girls with disabilities, including those living in institutionalized settings, who are particularly vulnerable to violence, including by ensuring that facilities for such services and programmes are accessible, and disability is mainstreamed in materials and training courses addressed to professionals working on violence against women;

(e) Establishing comprehensive, coordinated, interdisciplinary, accessible and sustained multisectoral services, programmes and responses for all victims and

survivors of all forms of violence, including sexual harassment, that are adequately resourced, that are, when possible, in a language that they understand and in which they can communicate and that include effective and coordinated action by, as appropriate, relevant stakeholders, such as the police and the justice sector, as well as providers of legal aid services, health services, shelters, medical and psychological assistance counselling services and protection, and, in cases of girl victims and survivors, ensuring that such services, programmes and responses take into account the best interests of the child;

(f) Establishing and/or strengthening law enforcement, health and social workers' and counsellors' response protocols and procedures to ensure that all appropriate actions are coordinated and taken to protect and respond to the needs of victims of violence, to identify acts of violence and to prevent their recurrence or further acts of violence and physical and psychological harm, ensuring that services are responsive to survivors' needs, including by providing access to female health-care providers, police officers and counsellors if requested, and ensuring and maintaining the privacy of victims and the confidentiality of their reporting;

(g) Taking and implementing further measures to ensure that all officials, including those in leadership positions, responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, protecting and assisting victims and investigating and punishing acts of violence receive training on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, to raise their awareness of gender-specific needs, as well as of the underlying causes and the short- and long-term impact of violence against women and girls, and training on gender-responsive investigation of crimes of violence against women and girls;

7. *Encourages* States, in efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, to work in partnership with the private sector and civil society, including women's, young women's, youth-led and community-based organizations, organizations of and led by persons with disabilities, faith-based organizations, rural, Indigenous and feminist groups, women human rights defenders, women journalists and media workers and trade, labour and other professional unions, as well as other relevant stakeholders, and to support initiatives undertaken by them, including by allocating adequate financial resources, aimed at promoting gender equality and inclusion and eliminating violence against women and girls;

8. *Also encourages* States to systematically collect, analyse and disseminate data disaggregated by sex, age and other parameters relevant in national contexts, including, where appropriate, administrative data from law enforcement officials, the health sector, the judiciary and other relevant sectors, to consider developing methodologies to collect data on all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual harassment, in, inter alia, digital contexts, in order to monitor all forms of such violence, such as data on the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim and geographical location, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, including law enforcement agencies, in order to ensure high-quality, reliable and timely disaggregated data and gender statistics to effectively review and implement laws, policies, strategies and preventive and protective measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and the confidentiality of the victims;

9. *Urges* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in order to enhance international efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls, through, inter alia, official development assistance, other appropriate assistance as well as South-South and triangular cooperation, such as facilitating the sharing of

guidelines, methodologies, lessons learned and best practices, taking into account national priorities;

10. *Stresses* the need to continue to take and strengthen the measures necessary to ensure that no individual working within the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds, programmes and entities, is involved in sexual harassment, too often perpetrated against those affected by humanitarian crises, and calling upon the United Nations system to intensify its efforts in this regard to ensure zero tolerance for such violence;

11. *Underscores* the critical importance of protecting all persons affected by humanitarian crises, in particular women and children, from any form of sexual exploitation and abuse, including those perpetrated by humanitarian personnel, welcomes the determination of the Secretary-General to fully implement the United Nations policy of zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse, stresses that victims and survivors should be at the core of such efforts, notes the six core principles relating to sexual exploitation and abuse adopted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and encourages Member States to make greater efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse and to ensure that perpetrators are held accountable;

12. *Stresses* that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to 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, including sexual harassment, calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available, and takes note with appreciation in this regard of the contribution of the Spotlight initiative;

13. *Also stresses* the importance of the Secretary-General's Global Database on Violence against Women, expresses its appreciation to all those States that have provided the Database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and girls 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;

14. *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 prevent and eliminate sexual harassment;

15. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences to submit an annual report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth sessions;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth 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 [75/161](#) and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls;

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

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions, including information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolutions [73/148](#) and [75/161](#) and the present resolution, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

18. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls at its seventy-ninth session under the item entitled “Advancement of women”.

Draft resolution II

Trafficking in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially trafficking in women and children, which constitutes a serious crime and a grave offence to human dignity and physical integrity, a violation and abuse of human rights and a challenge to sustainable development and which requires (a) the implementation of a comprehensive approach that includes partnerships and measures to prevent such trafficking, to prosecute and punish the traffickers, to effectively identify, protect and support the victims of such trafficking and to intensify international cooperation and other prevention efforts and (b) a criminal justice response proportionate to the serious nature of the offence,

Recalling all international conventions that deal specifically with or 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 provides an internationally agreed definition of the crime of trafficking in persons aimed at the prevention of trafficking in persons, the protection of victims and the prosecution of the perpetrators,

Recalling the resolution entitled “Launch of the review process of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”,⁹ adopted at the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in Vienna from 12 to 16 October 2020,

Welcoming the 2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,¹⁰ adopted by the General Assembly at its high-level meeting during the seventy-sixth session, in which

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 [CTOC/COP/2020/10](#), sect. I.A, resolution 10/1.

¹⁰ Resolution [76/7](#), annex.

Member States reiterated, in the strongest possible terms, the importance of strengthening collective action to end trafficking in persons,

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 in persons contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women¹¹ and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,¹²

Reaffirming also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹³ and the commitments made by world leaders at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, addresses the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking in persons and sexual and other types of exploitation; the eradication of forced labour, modern slavery, trafficking in persons and child labour; and the ending of abuse, exploitation, trafficking in persons, all forms of violence against and torture of children,

Recognizing the importance of a revitalized global partnership to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the implementation of the goals and targets related to ending violence against women and girls and trafficking in persons, and in this regard taking note with appreciation of Alliance 8.7, the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, and the various initiatives of Member States to contribute to the global fight against trafficking in persons,

Recalling the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 December 2018 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 73/195 of 19 December 2018, which addresses, inter alia, the issue of trafficking in persons in the context of international migration,

Welcoming the convening of the first International Migration Review Forum in May 2022 as the primary intergovernmental global platform for Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact, and the adoption of its Progress Declaration,¹⁴

Welcoming in particular the efforts of States, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to combat trafficking in persons, especially trafficking in women and children, including the implementation of 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 and the 2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,

Recognizing the urgency of combating trafficking in persons in all its forms, including for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour, including of women migrant workers, and in this regard taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 11 June 2014, at its 103rd session, of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and of the Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation, 2014 (No. 203), of the International Labour Organization,

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 *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.

¹³ Resolution 70/1.

¹⁴ Resolution 76/266, annex.

Welcoming, in the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-sixth session,¹⁵ the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls, inter alia, the commitment of Governments to eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spaces, online and offline, such as sexual and gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons and modern slavery and other forms of exploitation; and to support and fund research and analysis to better understand the impacts of climate change, environmental degradation and disasters on women and girls, including in relation to trafficking in persons,

Noting with appreciation the efforts, including of the human rights treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, other relevant special procedure mandate holders of the Council involved in trafficking in persons issues, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and United Nations agencies and other concerned intergovernmental and governmental organizations, within their existing mandates, as well as civil society, to address the 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 relevant contributions of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,¹⁶ and her work in integrating a gender- and age-specific perspective throughout her mandate, 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,¹⁷ which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

Bearing in mind the obligations of States to exercise due diligence to prevent trafficking in persons, to investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to protect and empower victims, and that not doing so may violate and impair or nullify 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 within and between regions and States, as well as within and between developed and developing countries, and recognizing that trafficking in persons disproportionately affects women and girls and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking in persons, including for sexual exploitation and for the purpose of organ removal,

Highlighting the need to incorporate a victim-centred and trauma-informed, and gender- and age-sensitive approach, taking into account the specific needs of women and girls with disabilities, into all anti-trafficking efforts, and recognizing that women and girls are particularly vulnerable to trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual exploitation and abuse, harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage, as well as forced labour and other forms of exploitation,

Recognizing that pervasive gender inequality, poverty, unemployment, lack of access to quality education, lack of socioeconomic opportunities, gender-based violence, discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, marginalization and persistent demand are among the underlying causes that make women and girls at heightened risk of trafficking in persons,

¹⁵ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2022, Supplement No. 7 (E/2022/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁶ Most recently [A/77/170](#).

¹⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

Recognizing also the need to adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to discourage the demand, which fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking in persons,

Recognizing further the role that men and boys can play as agents of change in addressing the harmful impact of gender stereotypes and negative social norms and in preventing sexual and gender-based violence and trafficking in persons, and underlining the need to educate and engage men and boys for this purpose,

Recognizing the heightened risk of trafficking of women and girls in humanitarian crisis situations, including in conflict and post-conflict environments, natural disasters, including those that result from adverse impacts of climate change, pandemic situations, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and other emergency environments, as well as the devastating consequences for women and girls in such circumstances, and noting in this regard the Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative and the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change, resulting from the Nansen Initiative, while recognizing that not all States are participating in them,

Recognizing also that in armed conflict, trafficking in persons, including for the purposes of sexual exploitation and forced labour, can be prevalent, and in this regard expressing deep concern over its negative impacts on victims of trafficking in persons, and bearing in mind the need to respect the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations,

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

Recognizing that, despite the progress made, challenges to preventing, prosecuting and combating trafficking in women and girls and to protecting and assisting the victims of trafficking in persons remain and that further efforts should be made to adopt and implement adequate legislation and other measures and to continue improving the collection of reliable data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, nationality, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts and other relevant factors and of statistics that would allow proper analysis of the nature, extent and risk factors of trafficking in women and girls,

Recognizing also that further work is required both to better understand the link between migration and trafficking in persons and to develop more effective responses to eliminate the risk of trafficking in persons in the migration process in order to, inter alia, further efforts to protect women migrant workers from all forms of violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

Concerned about the misuse of information and communications technologies, including the Internet, social media and online platforms, for the purpose of recruiting for the exploitation of the prostitution of others, including for exploiting women and children and for child sexual abuse material, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, as well as for child and forced marriage and forced labour, while acknowledging the role that information and communications technologies can play in reducing the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, including by empowering women and children to report such abuses,

Recognizing the potential of information and communications technologies, including the Internet, social media and online platforms, to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, in particular trafficking in women and children, and to assist victims,

Concerned about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from trafficking in persons, especially trafficking in 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 at heightened risk of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, and in this regard recalling Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 25/1 of 27 May 2016, entitled “Preventing and combating trafficking in human organs and trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal”, adopted by the Commission at its twenty-fifth session,¹⁸

Recognizing that victims of trafficking in persons are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of their gender, age, ethnicity, disability, culture and religion or belief, 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, labour exploitation and the illegal removal of organs is met by trafficking in persons, and recognizing that trafficking in persons is fuelled by high profits for traffickers and demand that fosters all forms of exploitation,

Acknowledging that women and girl victims of trafficking in persons, owing to pervasive and persistent gender inequality, 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 in persons, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to accurate information and recourse mechanisms in cases of the violations and abuses of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

Taking note of the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law, adopted in March 2021,¹⁹ which expresses the importance of strengthening efforts to prevent, counter and combat trafficking in persons, including by supporting data collection and sharing as appropriate, through relevant technical assistance by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, addressing factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking, detecting and dismantling trafficking networks, including in supply chains, discouraging demand that fosters exploitation leading to trafficking, ending impunity of trafficking networks, conducting financial investigations and using special investigative techniques under the conditions prescribed by domestic law, and protecting victims of trafficking in persons,

Recognizing the importance of implementing a victim-oriented approach to prevent and counter all forms of trafficking in persons for the purpose of exploitation, including the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery,

¹⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2016, Supplement No. 10 (E/2016/30)*, chap. I, sect. D.

¹⁹ Resolution 76/181, annex.

servitude or the removal of organs, where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

Reaffirming the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments, intergovernmental and civil society organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially trafficking in women and children,

Reaffirming also that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially trafficking in 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 and recovery, repatriation and reintegration should be developed through a gender- and age-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary and multicultural approach, taking into account the needs of victims with concern for their security and privacy and respect for their full enjoyment of human rights and with the involvement of all relevant actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,²⁰ 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 undertaken 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;²¹

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 Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 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 Women and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto²² and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,²³ as well as the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)²⁴ and the Protocol thereto, the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81),²⁵ the Migration for Employment

²⁰ [A/77/292](#).

²¹ [A/77/170](#) and [A/HRC/50/33](#).

²² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2171, 2173 and 2983, No. 27531.

²³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

²⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 39, No. 612.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 54, No. 792.

Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97),²⁶ the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111),²⁷ the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138),²⁸ the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143),²⁹ the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181),³⁰ the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),³¹ and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189),³² 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 Persons³³ and the activities outlined therein;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental, regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations to prevent and address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls and invites them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation, including by sharing their knowledge, technical expertise and best practices as widely as possible, and encourages Member States to strengthen cooperation among all relevant actors to identify and disrupt illicit financial flows stemming from trafficking in women and girls;

8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the outcome document of the Regional Ministerial Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa, known as the Khartoum Declaration, and calls for its effective implementation, including through technical cooperation and capacity-building, by the United Nations and the international community;

9. *Encourages* the Commission on the Status of Women to consider addressing the needs of, inter alia, women and girls subjected to trafficking in persons at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions, within the framework of the priority themes;

10. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to observe the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, in the context of the need to raise awareness of the situation of victims of trafficking in persons and for the promotion and protection of their rights, and as an opportunity to promote the empowerment of survivors of trafficking in persons;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations system to mainstream, as appropriate, the issue of trafficking in persons, especially trafficking in 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, humanitarian action and natural disaster and post-conflict reconstruction;

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

²⁶ Ibid., vol. 120, No. 1616.

²⁷ Ibid., vol. 362, No. 5181.

²⁸ Ibid., vol. 1015, No. 14862.

²⁹ Ibid., vol. 1120, No. 17426.

³⁰ Ibid., vol. 2115, No. 36794.

³¹ Ibid., vol. 2133, No. 37245.

³² Ibid., vol. 2955, No. 51379.

³³ Resolution 64/293.

13. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify their efforts to prevent and 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 to enhance preventive measures, including legislative and punitive measures to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

14. *Recalls* the basic principles on the right to an effective remedy for victims of trafficking in persons;³⁴

15. *Calls upon* Governments to strengthen measures aimed at achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and their equal and full enjoyment of all human rights, women's full, equal and meaningful participation in all spheres of life, free from all forms of discrimination, and their leadership in society, including through education, economic empowerment, gender-sensitive social protection and promoting an increase in the number of women assuming decision-making roles in both the public and private sectors, to take further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women and girls in order to reduce their risk of being trafficked and, in that regard, to improve the collection and use of disaggregated data and gender statistics to inform such measures;

16. *Also calls upon* Governments to take appropriate preventive measures to address the underlying causes as well as risk factors that increase the risk of trafficking in persons, such as poverty, including the feminization of poverty, gender inequality, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, including discrimination, gender-based violence, violence against women and girls, including impunity for such violence, and the persistent demand that fosters all forms of trafficking and the goods and services produced as a result of trafficking in persons, as well as other factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for exploitation, including in prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage, including child, early and 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 punishing perpetrators, including public officials engaging in or facilitating trafficking in persons, through, as appropriate, criminal and civil measures;

17. *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 risk of women and girls to trafficking in persons and exploitation and associated gender-based violence, inter alia, that perpetuated by traffickers in digital spaces, and to prevent the trafficking of affected women and girls through all such national, regional and international initiatives;

18. *Urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective gender-responsive 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;

19. *Also urges* Governments to ensure that the prevention of and responses to trafficking in persons continue to address the specific needs of women and girls and their participation in and contribution to all phases of preventing and responding to trafficking in persons, especially in addressing specific forms of exploitation, such as sexual exploitation, and, in this regard, to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels, inter alia, in the development,

³⁴ [A/69/269](#), annex.

implementation, monitoring and evaluation of anti-trafficking legislation, policy and programmes, continuing implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking Protocol thereto, as an essential component of the peacemaking, stabilization and reconstruction process;

20. *Further urges* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental, non-governmental and private sector organizations, to support and allocate resources to strengthen preventive action, in particular, education for all, on human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, self-respect and mutual respect, and campaigns carried out in collaboration with civil society and the private sector to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels, including awareness-raising campaigns against trafficking in persons and slavery, including modern slavery, targeted at groups that are at increased risk of becoming victims of trafficking in persons, as well as at those who may fuel the demand that contributes to trafficking in persons;

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

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

23. *Reaffirms* the central role of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the global fight against trafficking in persons, particularly in providing technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, to implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

24. *Calls upon* Member States to take into consideration the challenges presented by new methods of recruiting victims of trafficking in persons, such as the misuse of the Internet, social media and online platform service providers by criminals, in particular for recruiting children, to take measures to develop targeted awareness-raising campaigns, including for law enforcement, front-line service providers and at-risk industries, to identify the signs of trafficking in persons, and to develop specialized training for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners;

25. *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,³⁵ to address the problem of trafficking in persons through, inter alia, enhancing information-sharing, collecting data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, specific data collection and other technical capacities and mutual legal assistance, coordinating with a view to dismantling criminal networks involved in trafficking women and girls, and combating corruption and the laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking in persons, including by collaborating with financial institutions, and to ensure, as appropriate, that such agreements, programmes and initiatives are particularly responsive to the problem of trafficking in persons as it affects women and girls;

26. *Urges* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for the purpose of the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs, as well as for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and abuse and sex tourism, and to bring to justice and punish the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials involved with trafficking in persons, whether local or foreign, 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 the due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in persons in their custody;

27. *Urges* Governments, in accordance with their respective legal systems, to take all appropriate measures, including through policies and legislation, to facilitate access to justice and protection for victims of trafficking in persons that is not conditional on their participation in criminal proceedings, as well as to ensure that victims of trafficking in persons are protected from prosecution or punishment for acts those victims have been compelled to commit as a direct consequence of having been subjected to trafficking in persons 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;

28. *Invites* Governments to consider establishing or strengthening a national mechanism, with the participation of civil society, as appropriate, including non-governmental organizations, such as women's organizations, and survivors of

³⁵ 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 Association of Southeast Asian Nations Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the initiatives of the European Union on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed 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, the Inter-American Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children, and the activities of the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration in this field.

trafficking in persons, to ensure a holistic and coordinated approach to anti-trafficking policies and measures, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, underlying causes, factors and trends in trafficking in persons, especially trafficking in women and girls, and to include data on victims of trafficking in persons disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts;

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

30. *Calls upon* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness on addressing the root causes that lead to all forms of exploitation of at-risk women and girls, in particular those in vulnerable situations, to eliminate 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 to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime;

31. *Calls upon* Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide access to appropriate programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking in persons, 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 to take measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims in ways that protect their privacy and identity;

32. *Also calls upon* Governments to promote the empowerment of women and girls, including survivors of trafficking in persons, in all stages of humanitarian response and to consider providing adequate access to redress;

33. *Encourages* Governments, in line with their obligations under international law, to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration, including by identifying and supporting victims of trafficking in persons, and to cooperate with relevant stakeholders to undertake or strengthen campaigns to inform migrants, including migrant women and girls, of the risks associated with trafficking in persons;

34. *Strongly urges* Governments to ensure coherence between the laws on and measures responding to migration, labour and trafficking in persons to protect the human rights of migrant women and girls throughout the migration and employment process as well as the repatriation process, when applicable, and to provide effective protection against trafficking in persons;

35. *Invites* States, together with relevant United Nations entities, to undertake further research into the links between migration and trafficking in persons to guide the development of age-sensitive and gender-responsive policies and programmes that address the vulnerability of women and girl migrants;

36. *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 trafficking in persons in supply chains, and to periodically assess the adequacy of such laws and address any gaps;

37. *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 in persons;

38. *Encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, to develop and implement gender-responsive and age-sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking in persons and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims in ways that protect their privacy and identity;

39. *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 including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in this regard calls upon Governments to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking in persons, especially by law enforcement officials, immigration officers, consular officials, social workers, health service providers and other first response officials, is victim-centred and trauma-informed and 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 any form of discrimination;

40. *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;

41. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are responsive to the particular situation of women and girls subjected to trafficking, and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities, without fear and with due regard for the protection of their privacy and their identity, and are available, when required, to 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;

42. *Emphasizes* the need to establish firewalls between immigration checks and labour inspections, and/or to ensure that labour inspections are conducted in such a way that does not put potential victims of trafficking in fear of immigration authorities or offences;

43. *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;

44. *Also invites* Governments to encourage media providers, including Internet, social media and online platform 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 in persons;

45. *Encourages* Governments to develop and implement strategies that promote safe access to media and to information and communications technologies in order to prevent and eradicate trafficking in women and girls, including increasing women's and girls' digital literacy and access to information;

46. *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 in persons, the means used by traffickers, the rights of persons subjected to trafficking in persons and the services available to them;

47. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of disaggregated data including, as appropriate, in humanitarian responses, in line with do-no-harm principles, and in this regard takes note of the publication of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 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 trafficking in persons;

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

49. *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 to provide training for law enforcement, judicial and other relevant officials and medical and support personnel, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims of trafficking in persons;

50. *Calls upon* Governments, and encourages 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 about the potential risks that victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, face of being subjected to trafficking in persons;

51. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³⁶ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³⁷ and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to include information and disaggregated statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to the respective committees, as applicable;

52. *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;

53. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth 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, victim-centred and gender- and age-sensitive approaches within comprehensive, multidimensional, multicultural and balanced efforts to address trafficking in persons, including in the prosecution of traffickers and protection of victims, and including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

³⁶ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³⁷ Ibid.

Draft resolution III

Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation

The General Assembly,

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

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁹

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

Reaffirming further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,¹² which reaffirms that all human rights, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, the Beijing Declaration¹³ and Platform for Action,¹⁴ the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,¹⁵ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development¹⁶ and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development¹⁷ and their 5-, 10-, 15- and 20-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹⁸ and the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the 2005 World Summit¹⁹ and reiterated in Assembly resolution [65/1](#) of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

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

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

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

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

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, annex II.

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

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

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

¹⁸ Resolution [55/2](#).

¹⁹ See resolution [60/1](#).

22 September 2010, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”, and those made in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,²⁰

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²⁰ Resolution 70/1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commending the continued efforts and actions undertaken by States, individually and collectively, regional organizations and United Nations agencies for the elimination of female genital mutilation, as well as the implementation of its resolution 75/160,

Noting with appreciation the recent progress made globally towards ending female genital mutilation, which has become less common in countries where it was once universal and in countries where it occurred in only a few communities, while expressing deep concern that, despite this global trend, progress is uneven and not fast enough to achieve the target of eliminating female genital mutilation by 2030 and the promise to leave no one behind, and that the COVID-19 pandemic increased women’s and girls’ vulnerability to female genital mutilation,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

²² A/77/312.

²³ Resolution 48/104.

²⁴ Resolution S-27/2, annex.

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

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

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

8. *Also urges* States to condemn all harmful practices that affect women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, whether committed within or outside a medical institution, to take all measures necessary, including through educational campaigns and by enacting and enforcing legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation, to protect women and girls from this act of violence, to hold perpetrators to account and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at the national and local levels, where applicable, in order to monitor progress;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

mutilation and encourage them to report to the appropriate authorities cases in which they believe that women or girls are at risk;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Draft resolution IV

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 and its resolutions [69/148](#) of 18 December 2014, [71/169](#) of 19 December 2016, [73/147](#) of 17 December 2018 and [75/159](#) of 16 December 2020 on the intensification of 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 United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,⁷

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁸ as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁹ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹⁰ recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights¹¹ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹² 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,¹³

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General¹⁴ and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Recognizing that intensified national ownership and leadership, political commitment and scaled-up national capacity are urgently needed to accelerate progress towards the elimination of fistula, including by implementing strategies to

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

⁶ Resolution [60/1](#).

⁷ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁸ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

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

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

¹¹ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; *ibid.*, vols. 2171, 2173 and 2983, No. 27531; *ibid.*, vol. 1642, No. 14668; and *ibid.*, vol. 2922, No. 14531.

¹⁴ [A/77/229](#).

prevent new cases and treating all existing cases with special attention paid to countries with the highest maternal mortality and morbidity levels,

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, sociocultural barriers, marginalization, illiteracy and gender inequality as root causes of obstetric fistula, and that poverty remains the main social risk factor,

Stressing also that obstetric fistula can be a cause of devastating lifelong morbidity if left untreated, with severe medical, social, psychological and economic consequences, that approximately 90 per cent of women who develop fistula deliver stillborn babies and that misperceptions about its cause often result in stigma and ostracism,

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,

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 mental and physical 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, in particular those who live in poverty or who are marginalized, are at particular 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,

Recognizing that lack of access to sexual and reproductive health, especially emergency obstetric services, including in humanitarian settings, remains among the leading causes of obstetric fistula, leading to ill health and death for women and girls of childbearing age in many regions of the world, and that a dramatic and sustainable scaling-up of quality treatment and health-care services, including high-quality emergency obstetric services, and of the number of trained, competent fistula surgeons and midwives is needed to significantly reduce maternal and newborn mortality and to eradicate obstetric fistula,

Noting that a human rights-based approach to eliminating obstetric fistula and efforts to eliminate obstetric fistula should be underpinned by, inter alia, accountability, participation, transparency, empowerment, sustainability, non-discrimination and international cooperation,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against and marginalization of women and girls, in particular those who are facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, which often result in reduced access to education and nutrition, compromising their physical and mental health and well-being and the enjoyment of their human rights and the opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence compared with boys, and often in their being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and abuse, violence and harmful practices, which can increase the risk of obstetric fistula,

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

may lead to negative effects on their mental health, resulting in depression and suicide, and are driven deeper into poverty and marginalization,

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, the private sector and civil society to the global Campaign to End Fistula led by the United Nations Population Fund, 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 global Campaign to End Fistula completes its nineteenth anniversary, while some progress has been made, significant challenges remain that require the intensification of efforts at all levels to end obstetric fistula,

Deeply concerned also about the insufficient resources for addressing obstetric fistula in high-burden countries, compounded by the low levels of development assistance for maternal and newborn health, which have declined in recent years, and the substantial need for additional resources and support for the global Campaign to End Fistula and for national and regional initiatives dedicated to improving maternal health and eliminating obstetric fistula,

Noting the Secretary-General's revised Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016–2030), undertaken by a broad coalition of partners, in support of national plans and strategies that aim for the highest attainable standards of health and well-being, physical, mental and social, at every age, ending maternal and newborn mortality, which is preventable, and noting that this can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Welcoming the various national, regional and international initiatives on all the Sustainable Development Goals and the global Campaign to End Fistula, including those undertaken bilaterally and through South-South cooperation, in support of national plans and strategies in sectors such as health, education, finance, gender equality, energy, water and sanitation, poverty eradication and nutrition as a way to reduce the number of maternal, newborn and under-5 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, and in this regard welcoming further the commitments to accelerate progress on the health-related Sustainable Development Goals by 2030,

1. *Reaffirms* the commitments made by Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, and recognizes that the efforts to end obstetric fistula within a decade will contribute to the achievement of the Goals by 2030;

2. *Stresses* the need to address the interlinkages between poverty, lack of or inadequate education for women and girls, gender inequality, lack of or inadequate access to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, early childbearing and child, early and forced marriage as root causes of obstetric fistula, and calls upon States, in collaboration with the international community, to take accelerated action to address the situation;

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,

the Beijing Platform for Action¹⁵ and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and to develop sustainable health systems and social services, with a view to ensuring universal 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, 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 equitable coverage and timely access, by means of national plans, policies and programmes, to health-care services, in particular emergency obstetric and newborn care, skilled birth attendance, obstetric fistula treatment and family planning, that are financially affordable, accessible and culturally sensitive, especially in rural and the most-remote areas;

5. *Further calls upon* States to ensure the right to education of good quality for women and girls, 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 and higher levels, 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;

6. *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;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to provide intensified technical and financial support, in particular to high-burden countries, to accelerate progress towards the elimination of obstetric fistula within a decade, which can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and leave no one behind;

8. *Urges* the international community to provide and enhance the necessary resources and capacity-building, upon the request of Member States, in order to treat fistula cases through surgery, leading to the reintegration of affected women and girls into their communities, with appropriate psychosocial, medical and economic support to restore their well-being and dignity;

9. *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 and the poorest urban areas, as well as to ensure that needed funding is increased, predictable and sustained;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to support the activities of the United Nations Population Fund and other partners, including the World Health Organization, in the global Campaign to End Fistula 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;

¹⁵ *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.

11. *Calls upon* States to accelerate progress to improve maternal health 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, including midwives, 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-care systems that provide universal access to affordable, equitable and high-quality integrated health-care services and include community-based preventive and clinical care, towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

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

13. *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, intensify actions and mobilize support towards ending obstetric fistula;

14. *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, to end obstetric fistula within a decade by:

(a) Redoubling 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) Making 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) Supporting the training of doctors and surgeons, nurses and other health-care workers in life-saving obstetric care, especially midwives, who are the front-line workers in the fight to prevent obstetric fistula and maternal and newborn mortality, including training on fistula prevention, treatment and care as a standard element of the training curricula of health professionals;

(d) Ensuring universal 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 and affordable, 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, support for developing and maintaining infrastructure to improve maternal and newborn health-care services and to strengthen the capacity for surgery, 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-care professionals who are able to perform interventions to prevent obstetric fistula;

(e) Developing, implementing, following up on and supporting national and international prevention, care and treatment and socioeconomic reintegration and support strategies, policies and plans to eliminate obstetric fistula within a decade by developing 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, which is preventable and treatable, including by ensuring access to affordable, accessible, comprehensive, high-quality maternal health-care services, and, within countries, incorporating into all sectors of national budgets policy and programmatic approaches to address inequities and reach poor women and girls and those in vulnerable situations;

(f) Establishing or strengthening, as appropriate, a national task force for obstetric fistula, with a lead governmental entity, to enhance national coordination and improve partner collaboration to end obstetric fistula, including partnering with in-country efforts, to increase surgical capacity and to promote universal access to essential and life-saving surgery;

(g) Strengthening the capacity of health-care 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) Mobilizing 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, and also to ensure access to elective caesarean sections for fistula survivors who become pregnant again in order to prevent fistula recurrence and to increase the chances of survival of mother and baby in all subsequent pregnancies;

(i) Increasing national budgets and harnessing domestic resources for health, ensuring that adequate funds are allocated to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat existing cases, and for strengthening the capacity of health-care systems to provide the essential services needed in this regard;

(j) Ensuring that all women and girls who have undergone fistula treatment, including the forgotten women and girls whose conditions are deemed incurable or inoperable, are provided with and have access to comprehensive health-care services, holistic social integration services and careful follow-up, including counselling, education, family planning, socioeconomic empowerment, social protection and psychosocial services, for as long as needed, through, inter alia, skills development, family and community support and income-generating activities, so that they can overcome abandonment, stigma, ostracism and economic and social

exclusion, and developing linkages with civil society organizations and women's and girls' empowerment programmes so as to help to achieve this goal;

(k) Empowering fistula survivors to make informed decisions about their lives and to contribute to community sensitization and mobilization as advocates for fistula elimination, safe motherhood and newborn survival, and supporting the exercise of their voice, agency and leadership;

(l) Accelerating efforts to improve the health of women and girls globally, with an increased focus on social determinants that affect their well-being and that include the provision of universal access to quality education for women and girls, economic empowerment, with access to microcredit, savings and microfinancing, legal reforms, the promotion and support of their meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels, and social initiatives, including legal literacy to protect women and girls from violence and discrimination, child, early and forced marriage and early pregnancy;

(m) Educating individual women and men, girls and boys, communities, policymakers and health professionals about how obstetric fistula can be prevented and treated, and increasing 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 mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, by working with community and religious leaders, traditional birth attendants and midwives, women and girls who have suffered from fistula, the media, social workers, civil society, women's organizations, influential public figures and policymakers;

(n) Enhancing the participation of men and adolescent boys in the intensification of efforts to end obstetric fistula and further strengthening their involvement as partners, including in the global Campaign to End Fistula;

(o) Strengthening 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;

(p) Strengthening 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 by 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 and ending fistula within a decade;

(q) Strengthening 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;

(r) Improving data collection, pre- and post-surgery, to measure progress in addressing 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;

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

15. *Encourages* Member States to contribute to efforts to end obstetric fistula, including, in particular, through the global Campaign to End Fistula, to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and to commit themselves to continued efforts to improve maternal and newborn health, with the aim of eliminating obstetric fistula globally within a decade;

16. *Requests* the global Campaign to End Fistula to develop a road map that will accelerate action to end obstetric fistula within a decade, towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, including for enhancing financial resources for interventions at the local, subnational, national, regional and international levels, in order to support countries and relevant United Nations organizations in the prevention, treatment and care of obstetric fistula;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report with specific updated statistics and disaggregated data on obstetric fistula and the challenges faced by Member States in implementing the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-ninth session under the item entitled “Advancement of women”.
