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Agenda item 28

Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Suljuk Mustansar **Tarar** (Pakistan)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2012, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-seventh session the item entitled:

“Advancement of women:

“(a) Advancement of women;

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

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 8th to 12th, 15th, 21st, 35th, 36th, 43rd, 44th, 46th and 47th meetings, from 15 to 17, on 18 and 23 October and on 8, 13, 26, 27 and 28 November 2012. An account of the Committee’s discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/67/SR.8-12, 15, 21, 35, 36, 43, 44, 46 and 47).

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 forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions (A/67/38);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls (A/67/170);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/67/185);



(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (A/67/220);

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (A/67/227);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula (A/67/258);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (A/67/347).

4. At the 8th meeting, on 15 October, introductory statements were made by the Assistant Secretary-General for the Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women); the Vice-Chair, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; and the Deputy Executive Director (Management) of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The Vice-Chair, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the Assistant Secretary-General for the Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships of UN-Women responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Japan, Slovenia, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the European Union (see A/C.3/67/SR.8).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft decision A/C.3/67/L.2

5. At the 15th meeting, on 18 October, the Committee had before it a draft decision recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, entitled “Ending female genital mutilation” (A/C.3/67/L.2).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision (see para. 31, draft decision I).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.3/67/L.19 and Rev.1

7. At the 35th meeting, on 8 November, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey introduced a draft resolution entitled “Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women” (A/C.3/67/L.19), which read:

“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 and 65/187 of 21 December 2010, and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

“Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

“Reaffirming also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled ‘Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century’, the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2010 of the Economic and Social Council, the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence and the declarations adopted at the forty-ninth and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, and welcoming in that regard the decision of the Council that the priority theme at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission would be ‘Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls’,

“Reaffirming further the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, at the 2005 World Summit and at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, and noting the attention paid to the elimination of all forms of violence against indigenous women in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007,

“Recalling the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture,

“Recalling also Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 and 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010 on women and peace and security and Council resolutions 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 and 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011 on children and armed conflict,

“Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 20/6 of 5 July 2012 on the elimination of discrimination against women, and Council resolution 20/12 of 5 July 2012 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: remedies for women who have been subjected to violence,

“Recalling the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including with regard to the responsibility of transnational corporations and other business enterprises to respect human rights, recognition of the specific challenges that may be faced by women and the need to pay special attention to both gender-based and sexual violence,

“Recognizing the importance of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the cooperation and coordination of UN-Women with all relevant United Nations entities,

“Expressing its appreciation for the efforts and the high number of activities undertaken by the United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

“Deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world, to provide protection and services to all female victims and survivors and to reinforce the message that violence against women and girls is not tolerated,

“Recognizing that violence against women and girls is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

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

“Acknowledging the need to address violence against women and girls holistically, including through the recognition of linkages between violence against women and girls and other issues, such as HIV/AIDS, poverty eradication, food security, peace and security, humanitarian assistance, education, health, crime prevention and human trafficking, and stressing in that regard that full and effective implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, including the promotion of universal ratification and better 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, will contribute to combating violence against women,

“Expressing its appreciation for the efforts and the high number of activities undertaken by States to eliminate all forms of violence against

women that have resulted in the strengthening of legislation and the criminal justice system, such as adopting national action plans, strategies and national coordination mechanisms, implementing prevention and protection measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building, support and services for victims and survivors, and improving data collection and analysis,

“Emphasizing that States should continue to adopt comprehensive legislation, in accordance with international human rights standards, that not only criminalizes violence against women and punishes the perpetrators, but also mandates prevention and protection for victims, and mechanisms and funding to ensure implementation,

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

“Recognizing also the important role of the community, in particular men and boys, as well as civil society, in particular women’s organizations, in the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

“1. *Stresses* that ‘violence against women’ means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life, and constitutes a form of discrimination against women;

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

“3. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General and the fact that Member States have responded to the request of the Secretary-General for information relating to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/187, and expresses the hope that Member States will continue to respond to subsequent requests of the Secretary-General;

“4. *Also welcomes* the efforts and contributions at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

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

“6. *Welcomes* the contributions already made by States, the private sector and other donors to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to End Violence against Women, while stressing the importance of further funding in order to meet the annual target of 100 million United States dollars by 2015;

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

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

“9. *Calls upon* all States to take all appropriate measures to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices that are based on the idea of the inferiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women;

“10. *Stresses* that States have the obligation, at all levels, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, to eliminate impunity and to ensure the enforcement of protective obligations, including adequate enforcement by police and the judiciary of civil remedies and criminal sanctions for violence against women and provision of services such as shelters, so as to provide victims with the means to avoid revictimization, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

“11. *Reaffirms* that the persistence of armed conflicts in various parts of the world is a major impediment to the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and, bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality, affecting women and men in nearly every region, calls upon all States and the international community to place particular focus on the plight, and give priority attention and increased assistance to relieving the suffering of, women and girls living in such situations and to ensure that, where violence is committed against them, all perpetrators of such violence are duly investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, while stressing the need to respect international humanitarian law and human rights law;

“12. *Stresses* that, despite important steps taken by many countries around the world, States should continue to focus on the prevention of violence against women and its causes and consequences as well as on the protection of victims and survivors and the provision of services to address this need, in order to complement more effectively the improved legal and policy frameworks, and should therefore monitor and rigorously evaluate the implementation of available programmes, policies and laws and improve, where possible, their impact and effectiveness;

“13. *Also stresses* that States should take measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, protecting and assisting the victims and investigating and punishing violence against women and girls receive continuous training to sensitize them to the different and specific needs of women and girls, in particular those who have been subjected to violence, so that women and girls are not revictimized when seeking justice and redress;

“14. *Further stresses* that States should take all possible measures to empower women, inform them of their rights, the law and the protection and legal remedies it offers, including by disseminating information on the assistance available to women and families who have experienced violence, and ensuring that timely and appropriate information is available to all women who have been subjected to violence, at all levels of the justice system, and inform everyone of women’s rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights;

“15. *Calls upon* States, with the support of United Nations entities, to fully engage men and boys, as well as families and communities, as agents of change in protecting women and girls against violence;

“16. *Urges* States to continue to develop their national strategy, translating it into concrete programmes and actions, and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and by increasing the focus on prevention and protection in laws, policies and programmes and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation, so as to ensure the optimal use of available instruments, by, for example:

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

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

“(c) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women and the reasons for low reporting, reinforcing, where necessary, criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women and, where necessary, incorporating into law measures aimed at preventing violence against women and protecting women who have fallen victim to violence;

“(d) Promoting awareness among all stakeholders of the need to combat violence against women, and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, inter alia, through regular and repeated use and funding of

awareness-raising campaigns throughout all areas of the country and other ways to promote prevention and protection, such as international, regional and national conferences, seminars, training, publications, brochures, websites, audiovisual material, social media, television and radio spots, and debates, as appropriate;

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

“(f) Also ensuring the systematic collection and analysis of data to monitor all forms of violence against women, including on the effectiveness of measures to prevent such violence and protect the victims, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, in order to review and implement effectively laws, policies, strategies and preventive and protection measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims;

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

“(h) Providing adequate financial support for the implementation of national action plans to end violence against women and other relevant activities;

“(i) Allocating adequate resources to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality and to prevent and redress all forms and manifestations of violence against women;

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

“(k) Promoting early interventions with families and children exposed to or at risk of violence, such as parenting education programmes, to reduce the risk of possible perpetration of violence or revictimization in adulthood;

“(l) Empowering women, in particular women living in poverty, by, inter alia, strengthening their economic autonomy and by ensuring their full participation in society and in decision-making processes, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and to affordable and adequate public

and social services, as well as equal access to financial resources and employment, and full and equal rights to own and have access to land and other property, and taking further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to violence;

“(m) Setting up outreach programmes and providing relevant information to women about gender roles, women’s human rights and the social, health, legal and economic aspects of violence against women in order to empower women to protect themselves and their children against all forms of violence;

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

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

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

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

“(r) Developing or improving and disseminating specialized training programmes, including practical tools and good-practice guidelines on how to identify, prevent and deal with cases of violence against women and girls and on how to protect and assist victims in an impartial and effective manner, for all stakeholders responsible for dealing with violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, including police officers, the judiciary, health workers, law enforcement personnel and civil society, and engaging statisticians and the media;

“(s) Strengthening national health and social infrastructure to reinforce measures to promote women’s equal access to public health care, including sexual and reproductive health, and address the health consequences of all forms of violence against women and girls, including by providing support to victims;

“(t) Providing immediate protection and support through the establishment of or support to integrated centres, available also in rural areas, through which shelter, legal, health, psychological, counselling and other services are available to all female victims of violence and their children, and, where such centres are not yet feasible, promoting collaboration and coordination among agencies, in order to make remedies more accessible and to facilitate the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims, and ensuring that all victims have access to such services;

“(u) Establishing or supporting national hotlines or helplines that provide information, counselling, support and referral services to victims;

“(v) Ensuring that the prison system and probation services provide appropriate rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, as a preventive tool against recidivism and, further, ensuring that appropriate measures are taken to set up or support programmes aimed at teaching perpetrators of domestic violence to adopt non-violent behaviour in interpersonal relationships and that, where appropriate, these programmes are set up and implemented in close coordination with specialist support services for victims;

“(w) Supporting and engaging in partnerships with non-governmental organizations, in particular women’s organizations, and other relevant actors and the private sector to end violence against women and girls and to protect and support victims and witnesses;

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

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

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

“20. *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 and

women's rights and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, and calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available;

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

“22. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations Statistics Division on the production of statistics on violence against women, and looks forward to the final version of the draft guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women: a statistical survey, submitted to the Consultative Meeting to Review the Draft Guidelines for Producing Statistics on Violence against Women, held in Beirut from 8 to 10 November 2011;

“23. *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, inter alia, through use of the manual on joint programming, prepared by the Inter-Agency Task Force on Violence against Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, which was converted to the Standing Committee on Violence Against Women at the tenth session of the Inter-Agency Network, with a view to increasing effective support for national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

“24. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to present an annual report to the General Assembly at its sixty eighth and sixty-ninth sessions;

“25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-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 65/187 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

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

“26. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh and fifty-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 64/137 and 65/187 and the present resolution, including

on the progress made in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide United Nations mechanism and on the progress of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

“27. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its sixty-ninth session under the item entitled ‘Advancement of women’.”

8. At the 46th meeting, on 27 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women” (A/C.3/67/L.19/Rev.1), submitted by Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, the Bahamas, Belarus, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Côte d’Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Gambia, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, the Niger, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Senegal, South Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At the same meeting, the representative of France orally revised the draft resolution, by deleting the word “urgent” in operative paragraph 18 (w) (see A/C.3/67/SR.46).

10. Also at the 46th meeting, the representative of the Sudan (on behalf of the Arab Group) made a statement (see A/C.3/67/SR.46).

11. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.19/Rev.1, as orally revised (see para. 30, resolution I).

12. After the adoption of the resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Chile, Pakistan, the United States, the Russian Federation and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as well as by the observer for the Holy See (see A/C.3/67/SR.46).

C. Draft resolutions A/C.3/67/L.20 and Rev.1

13. At the 21st meeting, on 23 October, the representative of the Philippines introduced a draft resolution entitled “Trafficking in women and girls” (A/C.3/67/L.20), which read:

“The General Assembly,

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

“Recalling all international conventions that deal specifically with and address issues relevant to the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 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 and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 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 Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, as well as the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and previous resolutions of the General Assembly and its subsidiary body the Human Rights Council, and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions on the issue,

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

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

“Welcoming the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly, held on 3 April 2012, on the theme ‘Fighting human trafficking: partnership and innovation to end violence against women and girls’, which united in a common endeavour Member States, the United Nations system, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and the media, to emphasize the value of a comprehensive approach and inclusive international partnerships in effectively fighting global trafficking,

“Welcoming also the resolutions on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, adopted by the Human Rights Council, in particular resolution 20/1 of 5 July 2012 entitled ‘Trafficking in persons, especially women and children: access to effective remedies for trafficked persons and their right to an effective remedy for human rights violations’,

“Noting with appreciation the steps taken, including the reports of human rights treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special

Rapporteur of the Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, and United Nations agencies and other concerned intergovernmental and governmental organizations, within their existing mandates, as well as civil society, to address the serious crime of trafficking in persons, and encourages them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

“Taking note of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and of the fact that part of her task is to integrate a gender and age specific perspective throughout the work of her mandate, inter alia, through the identification of gender- and age-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the issue of trafficking in persons,

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

“Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons, and to rescue victims as well as provide for their protection, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

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

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

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

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

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

“Concerned about the use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of exploitation of the prostitution of others, for

trafficking in women as brides, for sex tourism exploiting women and children and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children,

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

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

“Noting that some of the demand for prostitution and forced labour is met by trafficking in persons in some parts of the world,

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

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

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

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

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

“1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General, 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 report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which examines the existing international legal framework and standards applicable to States and businesses, in addition to non-binding codes of conduct and principles adopted by businesses, as part of efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking;

“3. *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;

“4. *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 Persons and the activities outlined therein;

“5. *Urges* Governments 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, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), the Labour Inspection in Industry and Commerce Convention, 1947 (No. 81), the Migration for Employment Convention, 1949 (No. 97), the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment Convention, 1973 (No. 138), the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143), the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181), the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) and the Decent Work for Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) of the International Labour Organization;

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

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

“8. *Calls upon* Governments to address, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters the trafficking of women and girls for all forms of

exploitation and in this regard to enhance preventive measures, including legislative measures, to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

“9. *Also calls upon* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the factors that increase vulnerability to being trafficked, including poverty and gender inequality, by empowering women and girls, in particular those living in poverty, by, inter alia, strengthening their economic autonomy and ensuring their full participation in society and in decision-making processes, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and to affordable and adequate public and social services, as well as equal access to financial resources and employment, and full and equal rights to own and have access to land and other property, and taking further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to being trafficked;

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

“11. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community and all other organizations and entities that deal with conflict, post-conflict, disaster and other emergency situations to address the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and exploitation and associated gender-based violence;

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

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

“14. *Reiterates* the importance of continued coordination among, inter alia, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery,

including its causes and consequences, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication in their activities in fulfilment of their mandates;

“15. *Encourages* Governments to take appropriate measures to eliminate sex tourism demand, especially for women and children, through all possible preventive actions;

“16. *Urges* Governments to develop educational and training programmes and policies and to consider, as appropriate, enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

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

“18. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation and abuse, sex tourism and forced labour, and to bring to justice and punish the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials involved with trafficking in persons, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

“19. *Urges* Governments to take all appropriate measures to ensure that victims of trafficking are not penalized or prosecuted for acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked and that they 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 for their illegal entry or residence;

“20. *Invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, as appropriate, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, and to include data on victims of trafficking disaggregated by sex and age;

“21. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking; to

discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour; to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue; and to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime;

“22. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide access to appropriate programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance in a language that they can understand and health care, including for HIV/AIDS, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

“23. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to undertake or strengthen campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration, as well as information on the risks of irregular migration and the ways and means used by traffickers, so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

“24. *Urges* Governments to strengthen the enforcement of labour laws that are aimed at, or have the effect of, requiring business enterprises to respect human rights, in particular to prevent and combat human trafficking in supply chains, and to periodically assess the adequacy of such laws and address any gaps;

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

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

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

“28. *Invites* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to devise, enforce and strengthen systems and mechanisms to intensify monitoring of cases of trafficking in persons and to expedite disposition of those cases;

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

“30. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism, travel and telecommunications industries, including mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking, the means used by traffickers, the rights of trafficked persons and the services available to victims of trafficking;

“31. *Also invites* the business sector to adopt ethical codes of conduct, in order to ensure decent work and prevent any form of exploitative practices that foster trafficking;

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

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

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

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

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

“37. *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;

“38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-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, gender- and age-sensitive approaches within comprehensive and balanced efforts to address trafficking in persons.”

14. At its 46th meeting, on 27 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Trafficking in women and girls” (A/C.3/67/L.20/Rev.1) submitted by Armenia, Belarus, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Congo, Costa Rica, Egypt, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Indonesia, Israel, Norway, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Turkey. Subsequently Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Niger, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America joined in joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

15. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.20/Rev.1 (see para. 30, draft resolution II).

D. Draft resolutions A/C.3/67/L.21 and Rev.1

16. At the 36th meeting, on 13 November, the representative Burkina Faso, on behalf of the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilation” (A/C.3/67/L.21), which read:

“*The General Assembly,*

“*Recalling* its resolutions 53/117 of 9 December 1998 and 56/128 of 19 December 2001, Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 51/2 of 9 March 2007, 52/2 of 7 March 2008 and 54/7 of 12 March 2010 and all other relevant resolutions,

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

“Reaffirming also the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled ‘Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century’, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and their five-, ten- and fifteen-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the 2005 World Summit and reiterated in Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled ‘Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals’,

“Recalling the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which contains, inter alia, undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation and marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment and ending of female genital mutilation,

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

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

“Recognizing that female genital mutilation is an irreparable, irreversible abuse that affects about one hundred to one hundred and forty million women and girls alive today, and that each year a further three million girls are at risk of undergoing the procedure,

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

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

“Recognizing also that the campaign of the Secretary-General entitled ‘UNiTE to End Violence against Women’ and the database on violence against

women will contribute 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 ten United Nations agencies announced in their joint statement of 27 February 2008, as well as the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting of the United Nations Children’s Fund and the United Nations Population Fund to accelerate the elimination of the practice,

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

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

“Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on ending female genital mutilation,

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

“2. *Calls upon* States to enhance awareness-raising, education and training in order to ensure that all key actors, Government officials including law-enforcement and judicial personnel and immigration officials, health-care providers, religious and community leaders, teachers, media professionals and those directly working with girls, as well as parents, families and communities, work to eliminate attitudes and harmful practices, in particular all forms of female genital mutilation, that negatively affect girls;

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

“4. *Urges* States to condemn all harmful practices that affect women and girls, in particular female genital mutilation, whether committed within or outside a medical institution, and to take all necessary measures, including

enacting and enforcing legislation to prohibit female genital mutilation and to protect women and girls from this form of violence, and to end impunity;

“5. *Also urges* States to complement punitive measures with awareness-raising and educational activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the eradication of female genital mutilation, and further urges States to protect and support women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilation and those at risk, including by developing social and psychological support services and care, and to take measures to improve their health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to assist women and girls who are subjected to the practice;

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

“7. *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 incorporate clear targets and indicators for the effective monitoring, impact assessment and coordination of programmes among all stakeholders;

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

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

“10. *Urges* States to pursue a comprehensive, coordinated and systematic approach based on human rights and gender-equality principles in providing education and training to families, 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;

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

“12. *Calls upon* States to develop policies and regulations to ensure the effective implementation of national legislative frameworks on eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls, in particular female

genital mutilation, and to put in place adequate accountability mechanisms at the national and local levels to monitor adherence to and implementation of these legislative frameworks;

“13. *Also calls upon* States to develop unified methods and standards for the collection of data on female genital mutilation and to develop indicators to effectively measure progress in eliminating the practice;

“14. *Urges* States to allocate sufficient resources to the implementation of policies and programmes and legislative frameworks aimed at eliminating (abandoning) female genital mutilation;

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

“16. *Also calls upon* States to support, as part of a comprehensive approach to eliminate female genital mutilation, programmes related to an alternative livelihood for traditional practitioners of female genital mutilation;

“17. *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 innovative programmes that address the needs and priorities of women and girls at risk of or subjected to female genital mutilation;

“18. *Also calls upon* the international community to strongly support a second phase of the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, which is currently due to end in December 2013, including increased financial support for programmes;

“19. *Stresses* that some progress has been made in combating female genital mutilation in a number of countries and that a common coordinated approach that promotes positive social change at the community, national, regional and international levels could lead to female genital mutilation being eliminated, with some of the main achievements being obtained in line with the Millennium Development Goals;

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

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

“22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant organizations and bodies for 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, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls against female genital mutilation in their country programmes, as appropriate, and in accordance with national priorities, in order to further strengthen their efforts in this regard;

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

17. At its 43rd meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations” (A/C.3/67/L.21/Rev.1), submitted by Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, France, Georgia, Greece, Grenada, Haiti, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Spain, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

18. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cyprus (on behalf of the European Union; the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Iceland and Serbia; the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process of potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and the European Free Trade Association country Liechtenstein, member of the European Economic Area), Italy, Kenya and the observer for the Holy See (see A/C.3/67/SR.43).

19. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.21/Rev.1 (see para. 30, draft resolution III).

E. Draft resolutions A/C.3/67/L.22 and Rev.1

20. At the 21st meeting, on 23 October, the representative of Senegal, on behalf the Group of African States, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula” (A/C.3/67/L.22), which read:

“The General Assembly,

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

“Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled ‘Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century’, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and their reviews, and the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the 2005 World Summit, as well as those made in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled ‘Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals’,

“Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 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,

“Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula, as well as the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Reaffirming the renewed and reinforced commitments made by Member States for achieving Millennium Development Goal 5,

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

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

“3. *Calls upon* States to take all measures necessary to ensure the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, and to develop sustainable health systems and social services with a view to ensuring access to such systems and services without discrimination, while paying special attention to adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation, family planning information, increasing knowledge and awareness and ensuring equitable access to and utilization of appropriate high-quality

prenatal and delivery care for the prevention of obstetric fistula, as well as postnatal care for the detection and early management of fistula cases;

“4. *Also calls upon* States to ensure the right to education for women and girls, of good quality, on an equal basis with men and boys, and to ensure that they complete a full course of primary education, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand girls’ and women’s education at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order, inter alia, to achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and poverty eradication;

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

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

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

“8. *Calls upon* States to accelerate progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 and its two targets by addressing reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, through the provision of family planning, prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care, postnatal care and methods of prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and infections, such as HIV, within strengthened health systems that provide accessible, affordable, equitable and high-quality integrated health-care services and include community-based preventive and clinical care, as also reflected in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled ‘Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals’, and the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health;

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

“(a) To redouble their efforts to meet the internationally agreed goal of improving maternal health by making maternal health-care services and obstetric fistula treatment geographically and financially accessible, including by ensuring universal access to skilled attendance at birth, timely access to

high-quality emergency obstetric care and family planning, as well as appropriate prenatal and postnatal care;

“(b) To make greater investments in strengthening health systems, ensuring adequately trained and skilled human resources, especially midwives, obstetricians, gynaecologists and doctors, as well as investments in infrastructure, referral mechanisms, equipment and supply chains, to improve maternal health-care services and ensure that women and girls have access to the full continuum of care;

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

“(d) To develop, implement and support national and international prevention, care and treatment and socioeconomic reintegration and support strategies, policies and plans to eliminate obstetric fistula and to develop further multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated action plans to end maternal mortality and morbidities and obstetric fistula, including by ensuring access to affordable, accessible, comprehensive, quality maternal health-care services; within countries, policy and programmatic approaches to redress inequities and reach poor, vulnerable women and girls must be incorporated in all sectors of national budgets;

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

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

“(g) To mobilize funding to provide free or adequately subsidized maternal health-care and obstetric fistula repair and treatment services,

including by encouraging networking among providers and the sharing of new treatment techniques and protocols to protect women's and children's well-being and survival, and prevent the recurrence of subsequent fistulas by making post-surgery follow-up and the tracking of fistula patients a routine and key component of all fistula programmes; access to elective caesarean sections for fistula survivors who become pregnant again should also be ensured to prevent fistula recurrence and to increase the chances of survival of mother and baby in all subsequent pregnancies;

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

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

“(j) To educate individual women and men, girls and boys, communities, policymakers and health professionals about how obstetric fistula can be prevented and treated, and increase awareness of the needs of pregnant women and girls, as well as of those who have undergone surgical fistula repair, including their right to the highest attainable standard of health, by working with community and religious leaders, traditional birth attendants, women and girls who have suffered from fistula, the media, social workers, civil society, women's organizations, influential public figures and policymakers, support the training of doctors, midwives, nurses and other health workers in life-saving obstetric care, and include training on fistula repair, treatment and care as a standard element of the training curricula of health professionals;

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

“(l) To strengthen research, monitoring and evaluation systems, including by developing a community- and facility-based mechanism for the systematic notification of obstetric fistula cases and maternal and newborn deaths to ministries of health, in a national register, for the purpose of guiding the implementation of maternal health programmes;

“(m) To strengthen research, data collection, monitoring and evaluation to guide the planning and implementation of maternal health programmes, including for obstetric fistula, by conducting up-to-date needs assessments on emergency obstetric and newborn care and on 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;

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

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

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

“11. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reaches young women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas;

“12. *Calls upon* the international community to designate 23 May as the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, and henceforth use the International Day each year to significantly raise awareness and intensify actions towards ending obstetric fistula;

“13. *Invites* Member States to contribute to efforts to end obstetric fistula, including, in particular, the United Nations Population Fund global Campaign to End Fistula, with the goal of making obstetric fistula as rare in the developing world as it is in the industrialized countries, in line with the targets of the Millennium Development Goal of improving maternal health;

“14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled ‘Advancement of women’.”

21. At its 44th meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution, entitled “Supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula” (A/C.3/67/L22/Rev.1), submitted by Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Cameroon, China, Cuba, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Fiji, Georgia, Germany, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Suriname, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Yemen. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta,

Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

22. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Peru (A/C.3/67/SR.44).

23. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution (see para. 30, draft resolution IV).

24. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Denmark, Kenya and Chile, as well as by the observer for the Holy See (A/C.3/67/SR.44).

F. Draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.71

25. At its 47th meeting, on 28 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/67/L.71), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations.

26. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chair, Ms. Dragana Šćepanović (Montenegro), made a statement (see A/C.3/67/SR.47).

27. Also at its 47th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/67/L.71 (see para. 30, draft resolution V).

28. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Algeria (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China) (see A/C.3/67/SR.47).

G. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

29. At its 47th meeting, on 28 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of documents A/67/38 and A/67/227 considered in connection with the advancement of women (see para. 31, draft decision II).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

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

Draft resolution I Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

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 and 65/187 of 21 December 2010, and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,² the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,³ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁴ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁵ and other international human rights instruments and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Recalling the rules of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949⁶ and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,⁷

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action⁸ the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,⁹ the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹⁰ the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”¹¹ and the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2010 of the Economic and Social Council,¹²

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

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

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

⁸ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

⁹ See 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, annexes I and II.

¹¹ Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

¹² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/65/3/Rev.1), chap. III.F.

Reaffirming also the declarations adopted at the forty-ninth¹³ and fifty-fourth¹⁴ sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, and welcoming in that regard that the priority theme of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission will be “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls”,¹⁵

Reaffirming further the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,¹⁶ at the 2005 World Summit¹⁷ and at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,¹⁸ and noting the attention paid to the elimination of all forms of violence against indigenous women in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007,

Recalling the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,¹⁹ as well as the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture,

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

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolutions 17/11 of 17 June 2011 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: ensuring due diligence in protection,²⁰ 20/6 of 5 July 2012 on the elimination of discrimination against women²¹ and 20/12 of 5 July 2012 on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: remedies for women who have been subjected to violence,²¹

¹³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

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

¹⁵ See Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15, para. 2 (d).

¹⁶ See resolution 55/2.

¹⁷ See resolution 60/1.

¹⁸ See resolution 65/1.

¹⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

²⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/66/53)*, chap. III, sect. A.

²¹ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/67/53 and Corr.1), chap. IV, sect. A.

Recalling the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,²² including the responsibility of business enterprises to respect human rights, bearing in mind the different risks that may be faced by women and men,

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

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and the high number of activities undertaken by the United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights aspects of the victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,

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

Recognizing that violence against women and girls is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

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

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

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

²² A/HRC/17/31, annex.

in Persons, will contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

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

Emphasizing that States should continue to adopt legislation, in accordance with their international human rights obligations and commitments, which addresses the issue of violence against women in a comprehensive manner by not only criminalizing violence against women and girls and providing for punishment of the perpetrators, but also including protection and preventive measures, with provisions for adequate funding for their implementation,

Recognizing that domestic violence remains widespread and affects women of all social strata across the world and the need to eliminate such violence,

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

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

1. *Stresses* that "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;

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

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

4. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General²³ on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, as well as the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences on violence against women with disabilities;²⁴

5. *Also welcomes* the efforts and contributions at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

²³ A/67/220.

²⁴ A/67/227.

and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

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

7. *Welcomes* the contributions already made by States, the private sector and other donors to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to End Violence against Women, while stressing the importance of further funding in order to meet the annual target of 100 million United States dollars by 2015;

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

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

10. *Stresses* that it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;⁹

11. *Also stresses* that States have the obligation, at all levels, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and eliminate impunity and should ensure protection, including adequate enforcement by police and the judiciary of civil remedies, orders of protection and criminal sanctions, and provision of shelters, psychosocial services, counselling and other types of support services, in order to avoid revictimization, and that to do so contributes to the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by women subjected to violence;

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

prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, while stressing the need to respect international humanitarian law and human rights law;

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

14. *Also stresses* that, despite important steps taken by many countries around the world, States should continue to focus on the prevention of violence against women as well as on their protection and the provision of services, in order to complement more effectively the improved legal and policy frameworks, and should therefore monitor and rigorously evaluate the implementation of available programmes, policies and laws and improve, where possible, their impact and effectiveness;

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

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

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

18. *Urges* States to continue to develop their national strategies, translating them into concrete programmes and actions and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and by increasing the focus on prevention, protection and accountability in laws, policies and programmes and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation, so as to ensure the optimal use of available instruments, by, for example:

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

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

(c) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women and the reasons for low reporting, reinforcing, where necessary, criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women and, where necessary, incorporating into law measures aimed at preventing, protecting and providing access to redress for women facing or subjected to violence;

(d) Promoting awareness among all stakeholders of the need to combat violence against women, and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, *inter alia*, through regular and repeated use and funding of awareness-raising campaigns nationwide and other ways to promote prevention and protection, such as international, regional and national conferences, seminars, training, publications, brochures, websites, audiovisual material, social media, television and radio spots, and debates, as appropriate;

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

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

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

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

(i) Providing adequate financial support for the implementation of national strategies and action plans to end violence against women and girls and other relevant activities;

(j) Allocating adequate resources to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality and to prevent and redress all forms and manifestations of violence against women;

(k) Adopting all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, from the entry levels of the education system, to modify the social and cultural

patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, in order to promote the development of respectful relations and to eliminate prejudices, harmful customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women, and by raising awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women and girls at all levels, including through schools, teachers, parents, religious leaders, youth organizations and teaching materials sensitized on gender equality and human rights;

(l) Improving the safety of girls at and on the way to school, including by improving infrastructure such as transportation, providing separate and adequate sanitation facilities, improved lighting, playgrounds and safe environments, conducting violence prevention activities in schools and communities and establishing and enforcing penalties for violence against girls;

(m) Developing gender-sensitive curricula for educational programmes at all levels and taking concrete measures to ensure that educational materials portray women and men, youth, girls and boys in positive and non-stereotypical roles;

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

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

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

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

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

(s) Taking effective measures to prevent consent from becoming an impediment to bringing perpetrators of violence against women and girls to justice, while ensuring that criminal justice processes are gender-sensitive and that appropriate safeguards and measures to protect women facing or subjected to violence, such as restraining and expulsion orders against the perpetrators,

testimonial aids and adequate and comprehensive measures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence into society, are in place;

(t) Encouraging the removal of all barriers to women's access to justice and ensuring that they all have access to effective legal assistance so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues relating to family law, and also ensuring that they have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including through the adoption of national legislation where necessary;

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

(v) Developing or improving and disseminating specialized training programmes, including practical tools and good-practice guidelines on how to identify, prevent and deal with cases of violence against women and girls and on how to protect and assist them in an impartial, supportive and effective manner, for all stakeholders responsible for dealing with violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, including police officers, the judiciary, health workers, law enforcement personnel and civil society, and engaging statisticians, researchers and the media;

(w) Strengthening national health and social infrastructure to reinforce measures to promote and protect women's equal access to public health-care services, including for sexual and reproductive health, and reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,²⁵ and address the health consequences of all forms of violence against women, including by providing specialized health services such as supportive counselling, post-exposure prophylaxis for exposure to HIV and other services;

(x) Providing immediate protection and support through the establishment of or support to integrated centres, available and accessible also in rural areas, through which shelter, legal, health, psychological, counselling and other services are available to all women facing or subjected to violence, as well as their children, and, where such centres are not feasible, promoting collaboration and coordination among agencies;

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

(z) Ensuring that the prison system and probation services provide appropriate rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, as a preventive tool against recidivism;

(aa) Supporting and engaging in partnerships with non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, and other relevant actors and the

²⁵ *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.

private sector to end violence against women and girls and to protect and support women facing or subjected to violence and witnesses;

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

20. *Stresses* the contribution of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court to ending impunity, by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of violence against women, and urges States to consider ratifying or acceding as a matter of priority to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,²⁶ which entered into force on 1 July 2002;

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

22. *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 and women's rights and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, and calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available;

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

24. *Acknowledges* the work of the United Nations Statistics Division, as requested by the Statistical Commission, on the development of guidelines to support the production by Member States of statistics on violence against women;

25. *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

²⁶ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

and to better coordinate their work with a view to increasing effective support for national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

26. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to present an annual report to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth and sixty-ninth sessions;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-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 65/187 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

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

28. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh and fifty-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 64/137 and 65/187 and the present resolution, including on the progress made in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide United Nations mechanism and on the progress of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

29. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its sixty-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 women and children, which constitutes a serious threat to human dignity, human rights and development,

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

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

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

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

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

² *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 2171, No. 27531.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 96, No. 1342.

⁹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

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

Welcoming the interactive dialogue of the General Assembly, held on 3 April 2012, on the theme “Fighting human trafficking: partnership and innovation to end violence against women and girls”, which united in a common endeavour Member States, the United Nations system, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and the media to emphasize the value of a comprehensive approach and inclusive international partnerships in effectively fighting global trafficking,

Noting with appreciation the resolutions on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, adopted by the Human Rights Council, including resolution 20/1 of 5 July 2012 entitled “Trafficking in persons, especially women and children: access to effective remedies for trafficked persons and their right to an effective remedy for human rights violations”,

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

Taking note of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and of the fact that part of her task is to integrate a gender- and age-specific perspective throughout the work of her mandate, inter alia, through the identification of gender- and age-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the issue of trafficking in persons,

Acknowledging the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,¹⁰ which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons, and to rescue victims as well as provide for their protection, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

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

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Concerned about the use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of exploitation of the prostitution of others, for trafficking in women as brides, for exploiting women and children and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children,

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

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

Noting that some of the demand for prostitution and forced labour is met by trafficking in persons in some parts of the world,

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

Encouraging the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session to consider the issue of trafficking in women and girls within the framework of the priority theme for 2013, “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls”;

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

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

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

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

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,¹¹ 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 report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,¹² which examines the existing international legal framework and standards applicable to States and businesses, in addition to non-binding codes of conduct and principles adopted by businesses, as part of efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking;

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

4. *Also urges* Member States to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴ and the Optional Protocol thereto,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁶ and the Optional Protocols thereto,⁷ and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,¹³ as well as the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), the Labour Inspection in Industry and Commerce Convention, 1947 (No. 81), the Migration for

¹¹ A/67/170.

¹² A/67/261.

¹³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

Employment Convention, 1949 (No. 97), the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment Convention, 1973 (No. 138), the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143), the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181), the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182), and the Decent Work for Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization;

5. *Further 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 Persons¹⁴ and the activities outlined therein;

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

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

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

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

10. *Also calls upon* Governments to strengthen measures aimed at empowering women and girls by, inter alia, enhancing their participation in society, including through education and skills training, and to take further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to being trafficked;

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

¹⁴ Resolution 64/293, annex.

12. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community and all other organizations and entities that deal with conflict, post-conflict, disaster and other emergency situations to address the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and exploitation and associated gender-based violence;

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

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

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

16. *Encourages* Governments to take appropriate measures to eliminate sex tourism demand, especially for children, through all possible preventive actions;

17. *Urges* Governments to develop educational and training programmes and policies and to consider, as appropriate, enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

18. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen national programmes and to engage in bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, including by forging regional initiatives or plans of action,¹⁵ to address the problem of trafficking in persons through, inter alia, the enhancement of information-sharing, sex- and age-disaggregated data, specific data collection and other technical capacities, and mutual legal assistance, as well as the combating of corruption and laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercial sexual

¹⁵ Such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, the Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific region of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (see A/C.3/55/3, annex), the initiatives of the European Union on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed most recently in the European Union plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings, adopted in December 2005, the activities of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the Organization of American States Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, and the activities of the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration in this field.

exploitation, and to ensure, as appropriate, that such agreements and initiatives are particularly responsive to the problem of trafficking as it affects women and girls;

19. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation and abuse, sex tourism and forced labour, and to bring to justice and punish the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials involved with trafficking in persons, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

20. *Urges* Governments to take all appropriate measures to ensure that victims of trafficking are not penalized or prosecuted for acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked and that they 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 for their illegal entry or residence;

21. *Invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, as appropriate, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, and to include data on victims of trafficking disaggregated by sex and age;

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

23. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide access to appropriate programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance in a language that they can understand and health care, including for HIV/AIDS, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

24. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and civil society organizations, to undertake or strengthen campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations, rights and responsibilities with respect to migration, as well as information on the risks of irregular migration and the ways and means used by traffickers, so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

25. *Also encourages* Governments to review and strengthen, as appropriate, the enforcement of relevant labour and other laws within their territories or jurisdictions that are aimed at, or have the effect of, requiring business enterprises,

including recruitment agencies, to prevent and combat human trafficking in supply chains, and to periodically assess the adequacy of such laws and address any gaps;

26. *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;

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

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

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

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

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

32. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism, travel and telecommunications industries, relevant recruitment agencies and mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking, the means used by traffickers, the rights of trafficked persons and the services available to victims of trafficking;

33. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing

and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

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

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

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

37. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenants on Human Rights¹⁶ to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

38. *Also 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;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-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, gender- and age-sensitive approaches within comprehensive and balanced efforts to address trafficking in persons.

¹⁶ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Draft resolution III

Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/117 of 9 December 1998 and 56/128 of 19 December 2001, Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 51/2 of 9 March 2007, 52/2 of 7 March 2008 and 54/7 of 12 March 2010 and all other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming that the Convention on the Rights of the Child¹ and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,² together with the Optional Protocols thereto, constitute an important contribution to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and girls,

Reaffirming also the Beijing Declaration³ and Platform for Action,⁴ 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”,⁵ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development⁶ and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development⁷ and their five-, ten- and fifteen-year reviews, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁸ and the commitments relevant to women and girls made at the 2005 World Summit⁹ and reiterated in Assembly resolution 65/1 of 22 September 2010, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”,

Recalling the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights¹⁰ on the Rights of Women in Africa, adopted in Maputo on 11 July 2003, which contains, inter alia, undertakings and commitments on ending female genital mutilation and marks a significant milestone towards the abandonment and ending of female genital mutilation,

Recalling also the decision of the African Union, adopted in Malabo on 1 July 2011, to support the adoption by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session of a resolution banning female genital mutilation,¹¹

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

² *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

³ *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.

⁴ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁵ General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

⁶ *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.

⁷ *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.

⁸ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

⁹ See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1520, No. 26363.

¹¹ See African Union, documents Assembly/AU/12 (XVII) Add.5.

Recalling further the recommendation of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session¹² that the Economic and Social Council recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a decision to consider the issue of ending female genital mutilation at its sixty-seventh session under the agenda item entitled “Advancement of women”,¹³

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

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

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

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

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

Welcoming the efforts of the United Nations system to end female genital mutilations, in particular the commitment of ten United Nations agencies announced in their joint statement of 27 February 2008,¹⁴ as well as the Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting of the United Nations Children’s Fund and the United Nations Population Fund, to accelerate the elimination of the practice,

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

¹² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7 (E/2010/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

¹³ See Economic and Social Council decision 2012/248.

¹⁴ 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, *Eliminating female genital mutilation: an interagency statement*, WHO, 2008.

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

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on ending female genital mutilation,¹⁵

1. *Stresses* that the empowerment of women and girls is key to breaking the cycle of discrimination and violence and for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health, including sexual and reproductive health, and calls upon States parties to fulfil their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child¹ and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,² as well as their commitments to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,¹⁶ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,⁶ the Beijing Platform for Action⁴ 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”,⁵ and of the special session of the General Assembly on children;¹⁷

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

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

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

5. *Also urges* States to complement punitive measures with awareness-raising and educational activities designed to promote a process of consensus towards the elimination of female genital mutilations, and further urges States to protect and support women and girls who have been subjected to female genital mutilations and those at risk, including by developing social and psychological support services and care, and to take measures to improve their health, including sexual and reproductive health, in order to assist women and girls who are subjected to the practice;

¹⁵ E/CN.6/2012/8.

¹⁶ General Assembly resolution 48/104.

¹⁷ General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

6. *Further urges* States to promote gender-sensitive, empowering educational processes by, as appropriate, reviewing and revising school curricula, educational materials and teacher-training programmes and elaborating policies and programmes of zero tolerance for violence against girls, including female genital mutilations, and to further integrate a comprehensive understanding of the causes and consequences of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls into education and training curricula at all levels;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18. *Also calls upon* the international community to strongly support, including through increased financial support, a second phase of the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change, which is currently due to end in December 2013, as well as national programmes focused on the elimination of female genital mutilations;

19. *Stresses* that some progress has been made in combating female genital mutilations in a number of countries using a common coordinated approach that promotes positive social change at the community, national, regional and international levels, and recalls the goal set out in the United Nations inter-agency statement¹⁴ that female genital mutilations be eliminated within a generation, with some of the main achievements being obtained by 2015, in line with the Millennium Development Goals;

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

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

22. *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, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, individually and collectively, take into account the protection and promotion of the rights of women and girls against female genital

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

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

Draft resolution IV

Supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula

The General Assembly,

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

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹ the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,² the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development³ and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development⁴ and their reviews, and the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls made at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance⁵ and the 2005 World Summit,⁶ as well as those made in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”,⁷

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

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula,¹² as well as the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

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

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

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

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

³ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁵ See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

⁶ See resolution 60/1.

⁷ See resolution 65/1.

⁸ Resolution 217 A (III).

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

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378; and *ibid.*, vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

¹² A/67/258.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reaffirming the renewed and reinforced commitments made by Member States for achieving Millennium Development Goal 5,

1. *Recognizes* the interlinkages between poverty, lack of or inadequate access to health-care services, early childbearing and child marriage as root causes

of obstetric fistula, that poverty remains the main social risk factor and that the eradication of poverty is critical to meeting the needs and rights of women and girls, and calls upon States in collaboration with the international community to take action to address the situation;

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

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

4. *Also calls upon* States to ensure the right to education for women and girls, of good quality, on an equal basis with men and boys and to ensure that they complete a full course of primary education, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand girls' and women's education at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, and including age-appropriate sex education, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order to, inter alia, achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and poverty eradication;

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

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

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

8. *Calls upon* States to accelerate progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 and its two targets by addressing reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, through the provision of family planning, prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care, postnatal care, and methods of prevention and treatment

of sexually transmitted diseases and infections, such as HIV, within strengthened health systems that provide equal access to affordable, equitable and high-quality integrated health-care services and include community-based preventive and clinical care, as also reflected in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”,⁷ and the Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health;

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

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

(b) To make greater investments in strengthening health systems, ensuring adequately trained and skilled human resources, especially midwives, obstetricians, gynaecologists and doctors, as well as investments in infrastructure, referral mechanisms, equipment and supply chains, to improve maternal health-care services and ensure that women and girls have access to the full continuum of care;

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

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

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

(f) To strengthen the capacity of health systems, in particular public health systems, to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat existing cases by increasing national budgets for health, ensuring that adequate

funds are allocated to reproductive health, including for obstetric fistula, ensuring access to fistula treatment through increased availability of trained, expert fistula surgeons and permanent, holistic fistula services integrated into strategically selected hospitals, thereby addressing the significant backlog of women and girls awaiting surgical repair of fistula, and by 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 *Obstetric Fistula: Guiding Principles for Clinical Management and Programme Development*,¹³ which provides background information and principles for developing fistula prevention and treatment programmes, as appropriate;

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

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

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

(j) To educate individual women and men, girls and boys, communities, policymakers and health professionals about how obstetric fistula can be prevented and treated, and increase awareness of the needs of pregnant women and girls, as well as of those who have undergone surgical fistula repair, including their right to the highest attainable standard of health, by working with community and religious leaders, traditional birth attendants, women and girls who have suffered from fistula, the media, social workers, civil society, women's organizations, influential public figures and policymakers, support the training of doctors, midwives, nurses and other health workers in life-saving obstetric care, and include training on fistula repair, treatment and care as a standard element of the training curricula of health professionals;

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

¹³ Gwyneth Lewis and Luc de Bernis, eds. (Geneva, World Health Organization, 2006).

(l) To strengthen research, monitoring and evaluation systems, including by developing a community- and facility-based mechanism for the systematic notification of obstetric fistula cases and maternal and newborn deaths to ministries of health, in a national register, as well as for the purpose of guiding the implementation of maternal health programmes;

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

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

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

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

11. *Urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reach young women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas;

12. *Calls upon* the international community to designate 23 May as the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, and henceforth use the International Day each year to significantly raise awareness and intensify actions towards ending obstetric fistula;

13. *Invites* Member States to contribute to efforts to end obstetric fistula, including, in particular, the United Nations Population Fund global Campaign to End Fistula, with the goal of eliminating obstetric fistula globally, in line with the targets of the Millennium Development Goal of improving maternal health;

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

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 66/132 of 19 December 2011, and recalling also the section of resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled “Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women”,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action¹ and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,² are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,³ the 2005 World Summit,⁴ the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals⁵ and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

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

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

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and taking note with appreciation of all its agreed conclusions,

Welcoming also the progress of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women,

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 See resolution 55/2.

⁴ See resolution 60/1.

⁵ See resolution 65/1.

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

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Reaffirming also the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,⁶

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

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS⁷ and the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, adopted at the High-level Meeting on AIDS, held on 10 June 2011,⁸ in which, inter alia, the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women were recognized as fundamental for reducing the vulnerability of women to HIV,

Welcoming the integration of a gender perspective into the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",⁹ and in this regard commending UN-Women for its efforts to ensure coherence throughout the United Nations system in its advocacy for gender equality and the empowerment of women in the context of sustainable development,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on improvement in the status of women in the United Nations system,¹⁰

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

⁶ Resolution 63/239, annex.

⁷ Resolution S-26/2, annex.

⁸ Resolution 65/277, annex.

⁹ Resolution 66/288, annex.

¹⁰ A/67/347.

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

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;¹¹

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women¹ and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,² as well as the declaration adopted on the occasion of the fifteen-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,¹² and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women¹³ are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto¹⁴ and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the

¹¹ A/67/185.

¹² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2010/232.

¹³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Welcomes* the progress made in the effective functioning of UN-Women in regard to its governance structure, as well as administration, budgeting and human resources;

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

8. *Calls upon* UN-Women to continue to support gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system as an integral part of its work and, in that regard, to place a strong and more systematic focus on support for gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system;

9. *Welcomes* the commitment of UN-Women to support Member States in their efforts to develop and strengthen norms, policies and standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women as well as to integrate gender perspectives into sectoral policy and normative frameworks;

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

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

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

13. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and

implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys to take an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any violence against women, and in this regard encourages Member States to continue to support the Secretary-General's ongoing campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the UN-Women social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO — UNiTE to End Violence against Women";

14. *Reiterates its call* upon the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and their follow-up processes, including those of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in 2012, and the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, in 2013;

15. *Reiterates* that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session is essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard calls for the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women to feature prominently in discussions on the post-2015 development framework, bearing in mind the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective;

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

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

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

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

20. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies

systematically address gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis and the provision of sex- and age-disaggregated data and, where available, quantitative data, in particular through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the empowerment of women, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to convey the importance of reflecting a gender perspective to all stakeholders who provide inputs to his reports;

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

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

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

24. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, under the item entitled “Advancement of women”, and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, with recommendations for accelerating progress, and up-to-date statistics, including the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, and information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

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

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

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

28. *Recalls* Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15, and in that context encourages Member States to consider appropriate commemorative activities for the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

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

31. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Ending female genital mutilation

The General Assembly, recalling its resolutions 56/128 of 19 December 2001, 58/156 of 22 December 2003 and 60/141 of 16 December 2005, Commission on the Status of Women resolutions 51/2 of 9 March 2007, 52/2 of 7 March 2008 and 54/7 of 12 March 2010, as well as agreed conclusions of the Commission, and all other relevant resolutions, and taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on ending female genital mutilation and the recommendations contained therein, decides to consider the issue of ending female genital mutilation at its sixty-seventh session under the agenda item entitled “Advancement of women”.

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

The General Assembly decides to take note of:

(a) The report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions;¹

(b) The note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences,² submitted under the item entitled “Advancement of women”.

¹ A/67/38.

² A/67/227.