

DRAFT Concept Note

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

6 February 2016

- Event to take place Friday 5 February 2016, 11am to 1pm

Together, mobilizing to contribute to the achievement of the new Global Goals through the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation by 2030.

I. BACKGROUND

February 6th marks the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). In 2016 we are celebrating that for the first time FGM is included in the global goals under Sustainable Development Goal 5 for Gender Equality, Target 5.3 *Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation*. This marks an important moment as the world recognizes that FGM is truly a universal issue. More than 140 million girls and women throughout the world have undergone FGM. There is growing evidence that FGM is practiced in select countries in Latin America and Asia, in immigrant communities of Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand and in 29 countries in Africa and the Middle East.

Eliminating FGM is an essential step to realizing many of the other Sustainable Development Goals including targets on health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth. While the practice of FGM continues, girls and women are denied quality education, opportunities for decent work, and their health and well-being are threatened. For the millions of girls currently at risk of FGM this new global goal brings the promise of a better future.

Building on the sustained efforts of partners around the world to ensure FGM is on the global agenda we are coming together to carry this momentum forward in 2016 and beyond. Marking the International Day of Zero Tolerance in New York will serve as the first step in future efforts to mobilize stakeholders and ensure strong commitments to achieve Target 5.3, the elimination of FGM, and the entire SDG agenda.

II. MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Celebrate the inclusion of Target 5.3 on FGM in Sustainable Development Goals agenda
- Illustrate connections between eliminating FGM and other SDGs including education, health, employment and economic growth and inequality
- Share new data/information on the universality of FGM, stories of progress and highlight areas of persistent challenge
- Mobilize stakeholders towards the achievement of target 5.3, the elimination of FGM.

III. VENUE: Trusteeship Council

IV. PANEL

The panel will reflect the universality of FGM and will include stakeholders active in the elimination of FGM from around world. Speakers will reflect on their personal experiences resisting and/or surviving the practice of FGM and share lessons learned in developing policies and programs to end FGM in their communities and countries. Finally panelists will reflect on the interdependence of the SDGs and will discuss strategies and a roadmap for achieving Target 5.3.

Possible speakers include: (discussion of final selection ongoing)

- UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon (TBC)
- UNFPA Exec. Director Babatunde Osotimehin in representation of both UNFPA and UNICEF
- A champion of change: Kenyan Moran warrior
- Representative from the Indonesia Ministry of Health
- Representative from the Embera community in Colombia,
- Speaker from Egypt to present new data
- Aissata N.B. Camara: US/Guinea activist and FGM survivor
- **Master of Ceremonies:** Isha Sesay, CNN News Correspondent and Anchor (TBC)

V. CELEBRATION

- **Short film:** reportage consisting of stories or clips from around the world illustrating the efforts to eliminate FGM. Stories of cultural and social change, successful interventions, and voices of girls and women that have resisted or survived this practice and the communities that support them.
- **Collection of statements by Member States** in support of the elimination of FGM. Recording these statements would increase both their impact and longevity. In addition, these statements could increase visibility of this important issue and could be distributed to media outlets and governments. Statements could be presented by collecting brief written statements and selecting a key quote to be projected on screens at the event. Or alternatively video statements could be collected and shown at the event. The second option would be more complicated logistically. Other ideas discussed included:
 - For use in Social Media: Photo and Quote Template: Member States send short quote of commitment and photo to be used in social media and online, suggested by Melanie of DPI, discussion ongoing
 - Public Signatures/Pledge of commitment to end FGM: would include a timeline of commitment showing previous global commitments on FGM (UNGA Resolutions, Human Rights Council, SDG target...) Suggested by Juncal of UN WOMEN
- **Musical Performance** and statement by Inna Modja (<http://www.innamodja.com/>) a musician and FGM survivor that went through reconstructive surgery and regained her full potential.

- **Short Play** created by Equality Now and organized in collaboration with several missions. Play to be performed by 3 adolescent actresses based on collected stories of girls' experiences with FGM. Logistical set-up is minimal and would only require 3 microphone stands. The play would run between 15 and 20 minutes and would feature 3 stories including:
 - A girl from a diaspora community returns to her home country and is cut, and later becomes an advocate to prevent her sister and other girls from being cut
 - Girl in the US whose best friend has been cut
 - Girl from a FGM prevalent country in Africa who is not cut, she tells the story of how her parents resisted the social pressure

VI. PARTICIPANTS

- Permanent Missions to the UN
- Youth activists
- Civil Society organizations
- UN agencies
- Media