HIGH LEVEL EVENT ON
« THE WORLDWIDE BAN ON FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION »
ROME, 3-5 FEBRUARY 2013

-Final declaration-

We, Human Rights Activists, Members of Parliaments and Government Representatives from Belgium, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, France, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Somalia, Senegal, Togo, Uganda, having participated in the High Level Event on « The Worldwide Ban on Female Genital Mutilation » organised in Rome, 3-5 February 2013, by Non C’è Pace Senza Giustizia/No Peace Without Justice and the Radical Party, in collaboration with the International NGO Coalition for a Worldwide Ban on Female Genital Mutilation, under the auspices of the Italian Senate and with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy,

Congratulating the International NGO Coalition which under the coordination of Mrs. Chantal Compaore lead the campaign for the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution,

Recalling the numerous initiatives and measures undertaken in the most affected continent, Africa, equipped on 11 July 2003 with the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, Article 5 of which urges African States to « prohibit through legislative measures backed by sanctions all forms of female genital mutilation, […] , the medicalisation and para-medicalisation of female genital mutilation and all other harmful practices »,

Welcoming the outcomes of prior initiatives, in particular the High Level Meeting “From Cairo to Ouagadougou: Towards a Global Ban of Female Genital Mutilation” of 8-10 November 2009, and the Interparliamentary Conference of Dakar of 3-4 May 2010, which urged the United Nations to ban female genital mutilation with a view towards the worldwide elimination of the practice,

Congratulating African States for their engagement and their unfailing support of the International Campaign to ban female genital mutilation through the adoption on 2 July 2011 of the Decision of Heads of State of the African Union in support of a United Nations General Assembly Resolution banning female genital mutilation worldwide,

Congratulating also the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the priority he gives to combating all forms of violence against women and to protect and promote women's rights, and in particular in his report E/CN.6/2012/8 ‘Ending female genital mutilation’ of 5 December 2011,

Welcoming also the European Parliament’s adoption of Resolution T7-0261/2012 on 14 June 2012, calling for a worldwide ban on female genital mutilation,

Concerned, on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the International Day of Zero Tolerance to female genital mutilation, by the persistence and extent of the practice and its link to the role and status of women and girls,

Reaffirming that female genital mutilation is a violation of human rights which millions of girls and women worldwide have been or are at risk of being subjected to,

We consider that the historic adoption on 20 December 2012 at the 67th Ordinary Session of the United Nations General Assembly of Resolution 67/146, « Intensifying global efforts for the elimination of female genital mutilations », banning female genital mutilation worldwide, is a fundamental milestone in the fight against this scourge,
We therefore adopt the recommendations issued by the plenary sessions of this High-Level Event and commit to

CHAPTER 1: PROMOTE THE RESOLUTION AND ENSURE ITS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION IN ALL REGIONS OF THE WORLD WHERE FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION IS COMMITTED

1. **Recognize and promote** the essential role of legislation prohibiting and condemning female genital mutilation as an indispensable tool for the prevention and eventual elimination of the practice, by placing firmly within a rule of law framework the response to this human rights violation.

2. **Undertake** comprehensive national, regional and international measures to inform, educate and raise awareness, including by establishing model legislation accompanied and reinforced by the specific mechanisms necessary for effective implementation;

3. **Work towards deconstructing** common and pervasive views of female genital mutilation, particularly the fallacy that it is exclusively African or that it is mandated by specific religious traditions, and recognise instead that it is committed in all regions of the world and irrespective of migratory movements;

CHAPTER II: PUT IN PLACE AND REINFORCE POLITICAL AND LEGISLATIVE MEASURES AT THE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVEL BANNING AND CONDEMNING THE PRACTICE OF ALL FORMS OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

4. **Support** compliance with legislation banning and condemning FGM, by advocating for the provision of resources, the training law enforcement and the judiciary and by supporting regulations, guidelines, and operating procedures necessary for the effective implementation of the law so as to end impunity and protect girls and women at risk;

5. **Reinforce** effective measures and strategies already in place including by encouraging the harmonization of all aspects of legislation, including its punitive measures, to combat, among other factors, the growing problem of border crossing to evade prosecution, as well as encouraging the prosecutions of perpetrators and the rehabilitation of victims;

6. **Prevent and condemn** the rise of the medicalisation of the practice of female genital mutilation by advocating for strategies aimed at protecting women’s human rights as a whole, and not only their right to health;

CHAPTER III: CONSOLIDATE AND INCREASE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN ORDER TO EFFICIENTLY RESPOND TO THE PERSISTENCE OF THE PRACTICE OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION WORLDWIDE

7. **Encourage effective** monitoring at the national level through observatories and at the international level by using all existing reporting mechanisms, such as to the Committee on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child;

8. **Share** experiences, successes and failures promoting high-level engagement on the issue within bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation mechanisms, including decentralised cooperation activities, in order to undertake future activities that take into account the obstacles in the fight against female genital mutilation within affected countries;

9. **Support** activists working at the grass-roots level, strengthening their capacities to maintain or scale up their activities in the medium and long term, including by advocating for the allocation of sufficient funds for them to carry out their activities, also to encourage a sense of ownership of UNGA Resolution 67/146 by all those dedicated to eliminating FGM.