Ban FGM Campaign “Stocktaking and Strategy meeting”
Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire
19 – 21 November 2011

Recommendations for action to be undertaken relative to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution adopted by all conference participants

Essential elements to be taken into account and communicated to the drafters of the Resolution during the development of the text:

- Following the example of the Decision of African Heads of State, the text should be explicit, brief, and to the point, expressing global political will to ban the practice in order to eliminate it;
- Underline that FGM is a violation of the human rights of women and girls that causes permanent harm to its victims, and that any defense of the practice (for instance, due to its traditional character) is unacceptable
- Applaud all the efforts already undertaken, internationally, regionally and nationally, particularly laws adopted and applied where this has been done;
- Urge states to adopt legislation where it does not yet exist;
- Harmonize legislation among states at the sub-regional and regional level;
- Encourage states to undertake all necessary means for the application of legislation once it has been adopted, integrating outreach about the law into existing structures such as educational institutions, to maximise the population’s awareness, a necessary prerequisite for understanding of and compliance with the law;
- Engage in outreach, working with the media and together with communities and CBOs to increase awareness and to contribute to compliance with the law,
- Promote the training of executive and judiciary for the implementation of the law and the protection of victims;
- Encourage authorities to be supportive of civil society efforts by providing adequate technical and financial support;
- Support and encourage meetings aimed at an exchange of experiences, to reinforce the efforts of all;

Actions to be undertaken by participants to encourage a timely adoption of a Resolution:

Nationally
- Encourage and meet with the relevant ministries (Gender, Interior, Health, etc) to actively encourage the adoption of the Resolution by communicating their support to respective political authorities and Foreign Ministries; this also with a view of extending the sense of ownership in the process to all stakeholders, which will facilitate their actions once the Resolution has been adopted
- Contact Foreign Ministries, using the African Heads of State Declaration as a point of reference, to enquire as to where the process now stands and their respective involvement;
- Enter into contact with parliaments and specific interested parliamentarians;
- Inform other members of civil society, with the aim of extending the sense of ownership as widely as possible, to prepare the ground for implementation activities upon the adoption of the Resolution;
- Reinforce the role of First Ladies in the Campaign against FGM;
- Find additional financial resources to strengthen media and information campaigns about the worldwide ban on FGM.

Regionally and internationally
- Organize mission/s for consultations with the drafters of the Resolution at the United Nations;
- Sensitize also other states, not just African, about the Resolution, given that it is a worldwide practice;
- Reinforce media campaigns in NY;
- Participate in regular meetings of the UN Human Rights Council.

After the Resolution has been adopted:

Nationally
- Continue outreach towards all relevant authorities;
- Continue advocacy for the adoption and application of legislation to ban FGM, using the UNGA Resolution as a tool;
- Encourage the inclusion of the issue in reports due the CRC and CEDAW.

Regionally and internationally
- Work towards an Additional Protocol to these instruments to include FGM;
- Organize a meeting of the NGO coalition to ban FGM worldwide to discuss activities to conduct to ensure application of the law.