BanFGM Conference on
the worldwide ban on female genital mutilation

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Rome, 30-31 January 2017

Italian Senate

Rome, 1 February 2017

Program
Sunday 29 January 2017

Throughout the day: arrival of foreign participants

19:30 Welcome dinner (venue: Villa Laetitia, by invitation. Black tie)

Monday 30 January 2017 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

8:00 Departure of shuttle bus from hotel

8:30 – 9:30 Participant registration

9:30 – 12:30 Opening session (Sala delle Conferenze Internazionali):

Benedetto Della Vedova, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Elisabetta Belloni, Secretary General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Emma Bonino, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy and European Commissioner, founder of No Peace Without Justice

Lalla Malika Issoufou, First Lady of Niger

Sika Kaboré, First Lady of Burkina Faso, represented by Chantal Diallo

Claudine Talon, First Lady of Benin, represented by Punami Doko-Toko

Mariam Lamizana, President, Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices

Fatima Dia Sow, Commissioner for Gender, ECOWAS

Caroline Ouaffo Wafang, Adviser on Women’s Rights for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

12:30 – 13:00 Group photo

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch (Sala Mappamondi)
14:30 – 16:30  Parallel sessions I and II

Parallel Session I (Sala Nigra): **Self-determination vs. harmful practices**

*Chair*: Zeinabou Elback Adam, Minister for the Promotion of Women and the Protection of Children, Niger

*Moderator*: Bianca Pomeranzi, Gender Expert, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

*Rapporteur*: Rahim Kamara, Manifesto 99, Sierra Leone

This panel provides the opportunity to have a conversation about how FGM violates personal autonomy, and specifically sexual autonomy. FGM imposes societal expectations about gender roles on women and girls.

*Panelists:*

**Linah Kilimo**, former Chairperson, Anti-FGM Board, Kenya

**Rachel Badolo Kando**, CNLPE, Burkina Faso

New advocacy on FGM, **Masooma Ranalvi** – Founding Member, Speak Out on FGM, India

The panellist will focus on the nascent movement and campaign in India, and the work on parallel and interconnected tracks that they have engaged in, also at the international level.

**Filzah Sumartono**, AWARE, Singapore

Research as a basis for initiating action and spurring advocacy efforts – **Kameel Ahmady**, Iran Initiative on FGM/C, Iran

This presentation will focus on the research that has brought to light FGM in Iran and the advocacy initiatives now developing.

**Discussion**

Parallel Session II (Sala delle Conferenze Internazionali): **The UNGA Resolution on FGM and regional organisations**

*Chair*: Chantal Diallo, wife of President of the National Assembly, Burkina Faso

*Moderator*: Alvilda Jablonko, No Peace Without Justice

*Rapporteur*: Comfort Effiom, IAC-Cameroon

The aim in this session is to build on the BanFGM Campaign as a model of successful advocacy in mobilising national governments and the international community to promote national, regional and international instruments, which in turn can be used by local activists to hold national institutions accountable for the protection and promotion of women’s rights as human rights.

*Panelists:*

*Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French and Italian*
Caroline Ouaffo Wafang, Adviser on Women’s Rights, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Salimata Thiam, ECOWAS

Rob Linham, President of the Drafting Group on FGM, Council of Europe

Anne Van Nistelrooij, European Commission

Victoria Ouédraogo, Voix des Femmes, Burkina Faso

Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Ambassador of Brazil to Italy

Discussion

16:30 – 17:00  
Departure of shuttle bus to hotels

20:00  
Conférence dîner (venue: Embassy of France, Palazzo Farnese, by invitation. Black tie recommended)

Tuesday 31 January 2017 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

8:00  
Departure of shuttle bus from hotels

9:30 – 10:30  
Screening of films and video clips

10:30 – 11:00  
Coffee break

11:00 – 13:00  
Parallel Sessions III and IV

Parallel Session III (Sala Nigra): The normative framework: setbacks and developments

Chair: Linah Kilimo, former Chair, Anti-FGM Board, Kenya

Moderator: Assibi Napoe, CI-AF Togo

Rapporteur: Geofry Sande, IAC-Uganda

This panel will focus on the challenges and advances worldwide in implementing laws and other normative frameworks to challenge FGM, and the necessity to provide the legal tools with which girls...
and women and their advocates can act to defend their rights, victims have channels for redress, and perpetrators and their accomplices be held to account.

Panelists:

Legal assistance to victims of violence, **Elisa Ercoli**, President, Differenza Donna, Italy
*Addressing the essential role of NGOs in providing legal assistance to victims of violence.*

**Christine Nanjala**, Anti-FGM Prosecution Unit, Kenya
*Using court cases for advocacy – Jean Paul Murunga, Equality Now*
*Discussing challenges of implementation, and how to harness these for advocacy purposes.*

Harnessing parliamentary action against SGBV – **Marième Baba Sy**, Member of Parliament and President, APEGDH, Mauritania
*This panellist will speak of the vital role of parliamentarians at all phases of advocacy efforts, from drafting and fighting for the adoption of legislation to legislators’ role in implementation, including dialogue with constituents.*

Ensuring the professional development of professionals responsible for compliance (justice, medical, police): the experience of Senegal – **Magatte Sy Gaye**, Coseprat, Senegal

**Adibah Syarifatul**, Sisters in Islam, Malaysia

**Elisabetta Pierazzi**, Investigating Judge, Tribunale di Roma, Ministry of Justice
*Discussion*

Parallel Session IV (Sala delle Conferenze Internazionali): **Misidentifying the problem gives rise to challenges in combatting violations of personal integrity**

Chair: **Mariam Lamizana**, President, Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices

Moderator: **Mary Small**, GAMCOTRAP, Gambia

Rapporteur: **Victoria Ouédraogo**, Secretary General, Voix des Femmes, Burkina Faso
*This panel will focus on counterproductive approaches to combatting FGM, such as medicalization and financial incentives; to increase wider awareness of common fallacies surrounding the practice, such as perceived links to certain geographic areas or religions; and to ensure that the fight against FGM is understood as an issue of personal autonomy and self-determination. The panel will explore women’s empowerment and the wider reality of SGBV within which FGM is best understood.*

Panelists:

Combatting intersex genital mutilation – **Daniela Truffer**, StopIGM, Switzerland
*This speaker will branch out to connected issues, and specifically intersex genital mutilation committed on infants and children, which despite increasing outcry by the human rights community, is still given a medical alibi in many circles.*
Asking the wrong question: the reasons for medicalization – Morissanda Kouyaté, Executive Director, Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices

This panelist will provide a consideration of how the medicalization of FGM continues to frustrate efforts towards the elimination of the practice.

South-South, South-North and North-North exchanges – Amsa Amadou Abdoulaye Maiga, CONIPRAT, Niger and Elena Baragli and Gloria Bimbi Okhomina, Nosotras, Italy

This joint presentation will address the challenges that require the strengthening of south-south and north-south dialogue and exchanges.

Discussion

13:00 – 14:30  Lunch

14:30 – 16:30  Parallel Sessions V and VI

Parallel Session V (Sala delle Conferenze Internazionali): Starting from Girls: investing in the future of girls

Chair: Marie Laurence Ivovudo Marchal, Membro del Parlamento, Burkina Faso

Moderator: Marta Dassù, Chair of the Executive Committee, Women Empower the World

Rapporteur: Sory Koyaté, CPTAFE, Guinea

This session will focus on outreach by and with young people, including the actions undertaken by the Starting from Girls initiative.

Panelists:

Vichi De Marchi, Women Empower the World

Budi Wahyuni, Komnas Perempuan, Indonesia

Silvia Testi, Oxfam

Amina Abdi, Somali Youth Leadership, Somalia

Rossana Scaricabarozzi, ActionAid

The role of young people in ending FGM, Leyla Hussein, Global Ambassador, the Girl Generation

Discussion

Parallel Session VI (Sala Nigra): Effective advocacy for sustainable change
Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French and Italian

Chair: Fatma Toufiq, Member of Parliament, Tanzania

Moderator: Stella Pende, journalist

Rapporteur: Paola Magni, Amref Health Africa

Conducting successful advocacy that encourages state structures to implement existing legislation, or, where it has not yet been adopted, to promote its adoption, has been a significant challenge for anti-FGM activists worldwide. Furthermore, NGOs have also conducted outreach to ensure that knowledge of the law and about how to access justice is at the forefront of education campaigns on FGM, and accompany sensitisation campaigns on the harmful nature of FGM. This session will explore successful campaigns on these two fronts, and challenges that have been addressed.

Panelists:

Effective advocacy methods and messaging: ex-circumcisers, religious leaders and others – Imam Djiguiba Cissé, Fondation Djigui, Cote d’Ivoire

Joining advocacy and outreach efforts in the European context – Liuska Sanna, End FGM Network

Extending the fight against FGM to the Middle East, with a particular focus on the actions taken by parliamentarians and activists in Iraqi Kurdistan – Isis Elgibali, WADI

Leading advocacy campaigns, Khady Koita, President, La Palabre (Senegal/Belgium/Canada) and Senior Advisor, NPWJ

Advocacy and community outreach through radio documentaries, Clara Caldera, Italian Association for Women in Development

Lilis Listyowati, Kalyanamitra – Women’s Communication and Information Centre, Indonesia

Being an Agent for Change, Nice Nailantei Leng’ete, Amref Health Africa

Discussion

16:30 – 17:00 Coffee break

17:00 – 18:00 Plenary Session (Sala delle Conferenze Internazionali): Conclusions and next steps

Morissanda Kouyaté, Executive Director, Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices

Emma Bonino, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italy and European Commissioner, founder of No Peace Without Justice

Luca Giansanti, Director General for Political Affairs and Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
Pietro Sebastiani, Director General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

Laura Frigenti, Director, Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

18:00  Ministerial Declaration

18:00 – 18:30  Departure of shuttle bus to hotels

20:00  Conference Dinner (Venue: Polo Lounge, The Duke Hotel, by invitation)
Strategies for strengthening the legislative framework

Standing Committee on Defence

Palazzo Carpegna - Via degli Staderari, 2

Italian Senate

Wednesday 1 February 2017

8:00  Departure of shuttle bus from hotel

9:30 – 10:30  Welcome to the Italian Senate

Introductory remarks by Nicola Latorre, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Defence, Italian Senate

Luigi Manconi, Chairperson of the Select Committee for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, Italian Senate

Pia Locatelli, Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Human Rights, Italian Chamber of Deputies

Nam Hee Kim, Chairwoman, International Women’s Peace Group, South Korea

Niccolò Figà-Talamanca, Secretary General, No Peace Without Justice

Morissanda Kouyaté, Executive Director, Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices

11:00 – 13:00  Inter-parliamentary session

This session will be dedicated to an open discussion among all the members of parliament present, moderated by Niccolò Figà-Talamanca and Morissanda Kouyaté

Kingnaré Yarou Sinatoko, Member of Parliament, Benin

Marie Laurence Ilboudo Marchal, Member of Parliament, Burkina Faso

Bernadette Gambo-Souaninzi, Member of Parliament, Central African Republic

Haroun Kabadi, President of the National Assembly, Chad

* The opinions expressed during this meeting are those of the speakers and do not reflect the position of the Senate or any of its bodies.

Access to the room cannot exceed maximum capacity. Business attire required (suit and tie for men).
Opportune Aymadji, Member of Parliament, Chad
Charlotte Opimbat, Member of Parliament, Congo
Aly Kaba, Member of Parliament, Guinea
Marième Baba Sy, Member of Parliament, Mauritania
Habsa Kane, Member of Parliament, Mauritania
Aminata Diallo, Member of Parliament, Senegal
Khadijo Mohamed Diriye, Member of Parliament, Somalia
Aisha Mohamed Salih, Deputy Speaker, Sudan National Assembly
Fatma Toufiq, Member of Parliament, Tanzania
Nawel Tayech, Member of Parliament, Tunisia
Sam Cheptoris, Member of Parliament, Uganda
Everlyn Chemutai, Member of Parliament, Uganda
Rosemary Nauwat, Member of Parliament, Uganda

13:00 – 14:30   Lunch

14:30 – 16:00   Inter-parliamentary session (cont.)

16:00   Joint Declaration of Parliamentarians and Civil Society

Participant departures

Thursday 2 February 2017
Participant departures