



IX EDICIÓN

# UNWOMEN

STRATEGIES TO  
DECREASE AND  
ERADICATE THE  
PRACTICE OF  
FEMALE GENITAL  
MUTILATIONS



GUÍA DE  
ESTUDIO

**INDEX**

Presidence Letter .....	3
Chapter I: About the Comittee .....	5
Why was the committee created? .....	5
What is UN WOMEN?.....	5
What does UN WOMEN do and how does it work?.....	7
Structure of the Committee .....	9
Functions and Roles .....	10
Relevant Documents.....	11
Chapter II: About the Topic.....	12
Background of the Topic .....	14
Actual situation.....	15
Thematic-Committee Relationship.....	16
Chapter III: Committee standpoints and final recommendations .....	18
General Standpoint .....	18
Chapter IV: QARMAS .....	19
Final Recommendations.....	19
Chapter V: Bibliographical References.....	20

### Presidence Letter

In advance, a cordial greeting to all the representations participating in this meeting of the ***United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)***, we extend a warm welcome to this *IX Edition of the United Nations Model of the Maria Montessori (SSORIMUN)*. It is an honor to be able to count on your presence in the next debate sessions; because both we as the Bureau, and the Senior Staff, are excited to witness the result of the topics proposed in the debate. Likewise, we hope that the next session periods will be profitable for you and to your liking, that you can obtain knowledge and pleasant experiences during the weekend, as well as acquire new skills for your own development; however, we expect from you a good development within the debate and that you can make good use of the academic advantages and tools that we extend to you as the Bureau.

I'm Sofía Gómez and I have the honor of serving as the President of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, as well as working together with Valentina Giusti and Cecilia Tovar, who make up the Bureau in the positions of President and Vice-President, respectively. It should be noted that we expect from you as delegates interest, academia, effort and a great will to solve all that problem that is proposed during the debate; because although it is known, this is a committee where it is necessary to maintain a perspective of gender and technicality, so we expect no less from you, than ownership and development on the characteristic mechanism that the committee has, as well as the theme that will be discussed during the period of extraordinary sessions; "Strategies to decrease and combat the practice of Female Genital Mutilations".

In the same way, we expect you –beyond interest in the committee and the topic– to see the complete development of the qualities that make you up as delegates, thus considering oratory, negotiation, diplomacy, leadership and, of course, a well-supported academy. All these qualities with the objective of obtaining the best resolution to the problem and thus offering a final report that solves the committee's need for a response.

As a brief introduction to the topic to be discussed in this extraordinary session, it is important to know that female genital mutilation is a term that covers several procedures that involve the alteration or injury of the **female genitalia for non-medical reasons**. This practice is

carried out in various cultures and communities around the world, and although there is no single reason that justifies it, it is often based on traditional beliefs, social norms, and in some cases, on misinterpretations of religious texts. FGM can range from partial or total removal of the external genitalia to other forms of injury, and is carried out mainly on girls and young women.

The consequences of FGM are severe and can affect the physical, emotional and psychological health of women and girls who undergo it. Physical complications include infections, bleeding, complications during childbirth and urinary problems. On a psychological level, victims may experience anxiety, depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Furthermore, FGM perpetuates gender inequality and violence against women, as it is associated with control over female sexuality and the perpetuation of patriarchal norms.

UN WOMEN, has taken an active role in the fight against FGM. The organization recognizes that **this practice is a violation of the human rights of women and girls**, and works to eradicate it through various strategies. UN Women promotes awareness of human rights, supporting educational initiatives that inform communities about the harmful effects of FGM and fostering dialogue on gender equality.

In addition, UN WOMEN works with governments, non-governmental organizations and local communities to develop policies and programs that address the underlying causes of FGM. This includes promoting laws that prohibit the practice, as well as supporting economic and educational empowerment programs for women and girls. The organization also works to create support networks for victims of FGM, providing resources and assistance for their recovery.

This is why, through global and local campaigns, UN WOMEN seeks to change the social norms that perpetuate FGM, fostering an environment where women and girls can live free from violence and discrimination. The fight against female genital mutilation is part of a broader effort to achieve gender equality and ensure that all women and girls have access to a full and healthy life.

To conclude, it only remains to say that we are excited to see the development of this committee on which we bet very much, we know that as delegates they will do a wonderful job during the debate sessions. We look forward to this study guide being useful for you. We wish you the greatest success!

## **Chapter I: About the Committee**

### **Why was the committee created?**

The UN Women was established officially on July 2, 2010; but the approach of creating an official organism dedicated to the impact of gender equality matters inside the United Nations started after the General Secretary presented the report A/64/588, entitled “Comprehensive Proposal for the Composite Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women”, report which was emanated during the United Nations General Assembly in January 2010. The report stated that instead of untie and relieve other parts of the United Nations in their commitment to promoting gender equality and to advocate for women protection, The new entity was going to seek to sharpen and focus the impact of the gender equality scheme of the entire UN System, created with the purpose of accelerating process in meeting the needs of girls and women worldwide.

After exhaustive negotiation, UN Women was created by merging four parts of the UN System that focused on gender equality and the empowerment of women in society, this merge was carried out via the resolution 64/289, adopted unanimously by the merged organizations. The constituent organizations of UN Women are the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women (OSAGI) and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The first head of the entity was Michelle Bachelet, former president of Chile, currently the head of the organization is Sima Sami Bahous, a Jordanian Diplomat and Women Rights advocate.

### **What is UN WOMEN?**

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, commonly referred to as “UN Women”, is a vital entity within the United Nations system

dedicated to advocating for the rights and well-being of women and girls around the globe. Established in 2010, UN Women aims to promote gender equality in all aspects of society, working tirelessly to ensure that women have equal opportunities and access to resources, decision-making processes, and leadership roles.

One of the primary objectives of UN Women is to empower women economically, socially, and politically, recognizing that gender equality is essential for sustainable development and peace. The organization implements various programs and initiatives that focus on enhancing women's participation in the workforce, promoting education for girls, and supporting women's health and reproductive rights.

In addition to these efforts, UN Women addresses critical issues such as violence against women, which remains a pervasive problem in many societies. The organization works to raise awareness about the various forms of violence that women face, including domestic violence, sexual harassment, and human trafficking. By advocating for stronger legal frameworks and support systems, UN Women aims to protect women and girls from violence and ensure that survivors receive the necessary support and resources for recovery.

Furthermore, UN Women recognizes the importance of addressing sexism in society, which manifests in various forms, including discrimination in the workplace, harmful stereotypes, and cultural norms that perpetuate inequality. The organization actively engages in campaigns and initiatives that challenge these societal norms and promote positive change, encouraging both men and women to participate in the fight for gender equality.

Additionally, UN Women is committed to addressing violence against LGBTQ+ individuals, understanding that gender identity and sexual orientation are critical components of the broader conversation about equality and human rights. The organization advocates for the protection of LGBTQ+ rights and works to create inclusive environments where all individuals, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation, can live free from violence and discrimination.

Through its comprehensive approach, UN Women strives to create a world where gender equality is not just an aspiration but a reality, empowering women and girls to reach their full potential and contribute to their communities and societies as a whole. By fostering collaboration

among governments, civil society, and the private sector, UN Women plays a crucial role in advancing the global agenda for gender equality and the empowerment of women.

### **What does UN WOMEN do and how does it work?**

UN Women is a vital entity within the United Nations system, established in 2010 with the mission to advocate for gender equality and the empowerment of women globally. Its creation was a response to the recognition that despite progress in many areas, women and girls still face significant barriers to equality and justice. UN Women works tirelessly to address these challenges and promote a world where every woman and girl can thrive.

- **UN Women focuses on work in several key areas to advance its mission:**

**1. Elimination of Violence Against Women:** One of the most pressing issues that UN Women addresses is violence against women and girls. This includes domestic violence, sexual harassment, trafficking, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and child marriage. UN Women works to strengthen laws and policies that protect women, provides support services for survivors, and raises awareness about the prevalence and impact of violence against women.

**2. Economic Empowerment:** Economic independence is crucial for women's empowerment. UN Women promotes women's access to decent work, fair wages, and economic resources. They implement programs that support women entrepreneurs, provide training in financial literacy, and advocate for policies that ensure equal pay for equal work. By fostering economic opportunities, UN Women helps women gain the financial stability needed to make choices about their lives.

**3. Political Participation:** UN Women emphasizes the importance of women's participation in political and public life. They advocate for gender parity in decision-making processes, support women's leadership initiatives, and work to create an enabling environment for women to engage in politics. This includes training programs for women leaders and efforts to reform electoral systems to be more inclusive.

**4. Education and Training:** Access to quality education is fundamental for empowering women and girls. UN Women works to ensure that girls can attend school and complete their education,

addressing barriers such as poverty, cultural norms, and safety concerns. They also promote vocational training programs that equip women with the skills needed for the job market.

**5. Health and Reproductive Rights:** UN Women advocates for women's health and reproductive rights, recognizing that access to healthcare is essential for women's empowerment. They work to ensure that women have access to comprehensive health services, including reproductive health care, maternal health services, and information about family planning.

- **How UN Women Works:** UN Women employs a multifaceted approach to achieve its goals:

- **Advocacy and Policy Development:** UN Women engages with governments, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to advocate for laws and policies that promote gender equality. They provide technical assistance to help countries develop gender-responsive policies and frameworks.

- **Program Implementation:** The organization implements a wide range of programs at the local, national, and regional levels. These programs are designed to address specific challenges faced by women and girls in different contexts, often tailored to the unique cultural and social dynamics of each region.

- **Research and Data Collection:** UN Women conducts extensive research to gather data on gender issues, which is crucial for informing policies and programs. They publish reports and studies that highlight the status of women and girls globally, providing evidence-based recommendations for action.

- **Partnerships:** Collaboration is key to UN Women's success. They work with a diverse array of partners, including governments, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and grassroots movements. By building coalitions and fostering partnerships, UN Women amplifies its impact and reaches more women and girls.

- **Capacity Building:** UN Women invests in building the capacity of local organizations and communities to promote gender equality. This includes training programs, workshops, and resources that empower women and organizations working on the ground.



- **Global Initiatives:**

UN Women also leads global initiatives such as the HeForShe campaign, which encourages men and boys to advocate for gender equality and support women's rights. Additionally, they play a crucial role in the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), an annual gathering that brings together representatives from around the world to discuss progress and challenges

### **Structure of the Committee**

The governance of the entity is multi-tiered and involves the participation of various key bodies for its right operation. The General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, and the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) are the powers that constitute the governance structure, ensuring that the normative policy guidance of the entity is accomplished and functions on the proper ways to advocate for women at both local and global levels.

- **General Assembly:** Provides normative policy guidance to UN Women, it also plays a role in the overall governance and oversight of the organization.
- **Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC):** Offers operational policy guidance and works closely with UN Women to ensure that gender perspectives are integrated into all UN activities.
- **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW):** The principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It is in charge to monitor and review progress in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
- **Executive Board (Latter):** Provides operational policy guidance and oversight. Its role is to ensure that UN Women's activities are aligned with its strategic goals and objectives.

The latter is constituted by 41 members, elected by the Economic and Social Council for terms of three years, 33 members are member countries, 6 are contributing countries and the remaining four seats will be selected by and from the top ten largest providers of voluntary core contributions to UN Women.

## Functions and Roles

UN Women supports the United Nations Members in their way of setting global standards in order to achieve gender equality, and works hand to hand with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programs and services needed to ensure that the establishing standards are effectively implemented and truly benefiting women and girls worldwide. It works globally to the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) of the 2030 agenda a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life and society, focusing on four strategic priorities:

- Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems.
- Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy.
- All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence.
- Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action.
- Being the entity assigned to work for the empowerment and rights of women and girls globally, the main roles of UN Women are: To support inter-governmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards and norms.
- To help Member States implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, and to forge effective partnerships with civil society.
- To lead and coordinate the UN system's work on gender equality, as well as promote accountability, including through regular monitoring of system-wide progress.

## Relevant Documents

1. **New York Declaration on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (2012):** This document was adopted by UN Member States, reaffirming their commitment to the elimination of FGM as part of the Development Agenda.
2. **United Nations Resolutions:** Over the years, there have been multiple UN resolutions addressing FGM and calling for its elimination, including Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Resolution 67/146.
3. **WHO Report on FGM (2018):** The World Health Organization (WHO) has published several reports documenting the health consequences of FGM on women and girls, as well as recommendations for addressing this practice.
4. **Joint United Nations Programme on FGM:** This program includes various documents, guides, and strategies to address FGM in various contexts and regions of the world.
5. **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW):** Although not focused exclusively on FGM, this convention provides an important normative framework condemning violence and discrimination against women.
6. **Reports from NGOs and advocacy groups:** Organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and Plan International have produced reports on FGM, providing data, testimonies, and recommendations for its eradication.

*There are a wide variety of relevant documents on the topic, which, as your Bureau, we invite you to search in depth.*

## Chapter II: About the Topic

Female Genitalia Mutilation, commonly abbreviated as FGM is the set of all the procedures that involve altering or injuring the normal structures of the female genitalia (clitoris, labia minora and majora, vulva) for non-medical reasons. It involves the partial or total remove of the clitoris of the other external female genitalia as well as any other damage to the female genital organs.

In most of the cases it's carried out between the birth and the preteen years, being most common in young girls and toddlers. The International Community recognizes every form of carrying out FGM as a violation of Human Rights, including the rights to health, security and dignity. This practice doesn't have any know benefit to health and leads to long-term complications and death, excluding the physical and psychological trauma that mutilation itself constitutes. In adulthood, these girls will have less chance to be fertile and have difficult births due to the unnaturally of their vulva, it's a permanent psycho-physical damage that it's not reversible. In many countries, it's legal to get this practice done by healthcare workers, which only worsens the outlook for this situation, reinforcing the belief that by medicalizing this practice the risks decrease.

FGM was prohibited officially in 2016 by the African Union and approved as one of the ODS in the 2030 agenda; although ending this practice is far from being achieved, being a problem that must be attacked at the root. The practice is rooted in gender inequality, attempts to control female sexuality and to enhance chastity, religious beliefs, as a faith of virginity to possible husbands and ideas about purity, modesty, and beauty. It is usually initiated and carried out by women, who see it as a source of honor, and who fear to having daughters and granddaughters uncut will expose the girls to social exclusion.

According to OMS, more than 230 million living girls (144 million in Africa, 80 million in Asia, 6 million in Middle East, and 1-2 million in other parts of the world) had been subjected to one or more types of FGM. The African and Asian countries are the most affected one by this practice due to cultural reasons, being a worrying factor not only for women in these nations but for the international community. In Somalia, 98% of Women are mutilated, similar to Mali and Sudan, with 89% and 87% in this practice.

The procedure is typically carried out with a blade, but in less favored areas its common to use spines, glass, razor, scissor, knives and even fingernails, the use of anesthesia during mutilation is usually very low and unlikely. It is usually performed by an older woman or a male barber. There are few cases in which a medical team is involved in the procedure, for 2008, in Egypt and Somalia 50% of the FGM procedures were carried out by healthcare professionals.

This practice is classified in 3 types, the type one is the total of partial remove of the clitoris without any other alteration, the type two is the total remove of the clitoris and total of partial remove of the labia minora and the third type, known as infibulation, is the total remove of all the vaginal tissue, sewing the lips together and leaving a hole for urine and menstrual fluids to passage. When the procedure is over, the vulva is closed with thread, agave or thorns, and might be covered with a poultice of raw egg, herbs, and sugar to act as an ointment. To help the tissue bond and heal, the girl's legs are tied together, often from hip to ankle; the bindings are usually loosened after a week and removed after two to six weeks, forcing girls to keep their legs closed for this period of time.

When an infibulated girl marries, the midwife opens their hole with a knife to help penetration and childbirth, otherwise, the penis of the man acts like the knife and makes the hole to penetrate, resulting in 15% of the men never being able to penetrate their wives at all.

The consequences of this practice are undeniable, causing psychological issues like PTSD, anxiety and depression to victims of this practices, it also leads to feelings of shame and hatred towards the girls of their cultures, it also can reduce or eliminate sexual desire and it causes a painful sexual intercourse in all cases. According to the WHO it also increases the difficulties during childbirth, leading to neonatal death, complications, miscarriages and tissue tearing during birth. The scars of FGM can develop kelomas, neuromas and cyst due to the delicacy of the area, also permanent damage in the urethra and vaginal obstructions due to the abnormal tissue growth.

The reasons why FGM is performed vary from one region to another as well as over time and include a mix of sociocultural factors within families and communities, taking in accountability facts like economic and social status of the victimized girls.

There are communities where FGM is a social norm, the social pressure to conform to what others do and have been doing, following ancestral traditions, as well as the need to be accepted socially and the fear of being rejected by the community, are strong motivations to perpetuate the practice.

FGM is often considered a necessary part of raising a girl, and a way to prepare her for adulthood and marriage, being considered as a rite passage in many communities. This can include controlling her sexuality to promote premarital virginity and marital fidelity, as well as to ensure chastity, demonizing women sexual pleasure.

Some people believe that the practice has religious support, although no religious scripts prescribe the practice. Religious leaders take varying positions with regard to FGM, with some contributing to its abandonment and some defending and enhancing this violation to human rights.

### **Background of the Topic**

The origins and starts of this practice are uncertain, but it is believed that the first known society that practiced FGM were the Ancient Egyptians, being the first record of this crime circumcised mummies from the 5th century B.C. There is also a spell found in a sarcophagus from 1991 B.C depicting mutilation as a sin that can help to understand the way Egyptians viewed the practice. The Greeks also have registers of practicing circumcision in girls, being these the ones with the most ancient information about FGM, holding the first detailed descriptions of the procedure.

During the Red Sea (Islamic Middle-East) slave trades, “circumcised” women had more value as concubines in the Roman slave markets, because it was believed that circumcision granted chastity and loyalty from the girl to the buyer and helped prevent undesired pregnancies, although today it is known that this last statement is totally false. It was during the Red Sea slave trades that the practice globalized, extending from the Western shore of the Red Sea to the southern, western African regions, and spread from the Middle to Africa via Arab slave traders. With its widespread prevalence, a “multi-source origin” has also been proposed for the practice, claiming that FGM spread from “original cores” by merging with preexisting initiation rituals for men and women in various cultures.

In more modern times and societies, the United States of the 19th century practiced clitoridectomies to “cure” the false sickness of hysteria, to treat women who masturbated, nymphomaniacs or were labeled as “insane”. In the 60’s and 70’s it was used as a legal “cure” for erotomania and lesbianism, less than 60 years ago.

### **Actual situation**

The current situation of FGM is deeply concerning, the practice has increased a 15% since 2016, when UNICEF did the last globalized studio on female mutilation. The practice is still rooted and flourishing in many countries despite the multi-lateral efforts and approaches of the International Community to eradicate it. To meet the ODS from the 2030 agenda, the practice must decline 27 times, but this is far from becoming a truth.

In other cases, there’s countries with silent politics that allow this to keep happening or weak enforcement including Somalia, Mali, Senegal, Guinea-Bissau, and Gambia, where progress has been slow or non-existent despite international pressure. These countries face challenges such as weak legal protections, insufficient data, low awareness, cultural matters and a lack of funding and decisive action from the international community, whatsoever these do not justify the null or poor action to help eradicate this practice.

With challenges growing migration, there has been an increase in the number of girls and women in Europe, Australia and North America who have either been subjected to the practice or are in risk of being subjected. It is clear that FGM is therefore a global concern.

The current progress is insufficient to keep up with increasing population growth and if trends continue, the number of girls and women undergoing FGM will rise significantly in the next 15 years, becoming a global threat.

In addition, some health workers themselves are performing FGM, despite OMS efforts to ban and prevent health workers to perform this crime. This is impeding progress in the road to FGM abandonment, and violated their ethical obligation to do no harm.

### **Thematic-Committee Relationship**

UN Women is committed to eradicating FGM and works on multiple fronts to address this issue. Through its integrated approach, the organization seeks to promote gender equality, empower women and girls, and raise awareness about gender-based violence. UN Women's core strategies include awareness-raising and education, capacity building, policy and legislative advocacy, resource mobilization, and research and data.

Education is critical to changing perceptions and attitudes. UN Women implements educational programs that inform communities about the risks and consequences of FGM, promoting alternatives that respect women's human rights. They work in collaboration with community leaders, local organizations and human rights defenders to ensure that information reaches those who need it most.

In addition, UN Women trains grassroots organizations and community groups to carry out initiatives to prevent and eradicate FGM. This includes training in human rights, reproductive health and women's empowerment, enabling them to be agents of change in their own communities. By building skills and knowledge, an enabling environment for social change is created.

Another important strategy is supporting policies and legislation that prohibit FGM. The organization promotes the creation and implementation of laws that protect women and girls from this practice. It collaborates with governments and key actors to develop legal frameworks that guarantee the protection of women's rights. It also works to ensure that monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are established to ensure the effectiveness of these policies.

UN Women also plays an important role in mobilizing financial and technical resources for FGM-related programs. Through the establishment of partnerships with non-governmental organizations, donors and other international actors, they seek to ensure that there is sufficient funding and support for FGM elimination initiatives. This mobilization of resources is essential for the sustainability of the actions undertaken.

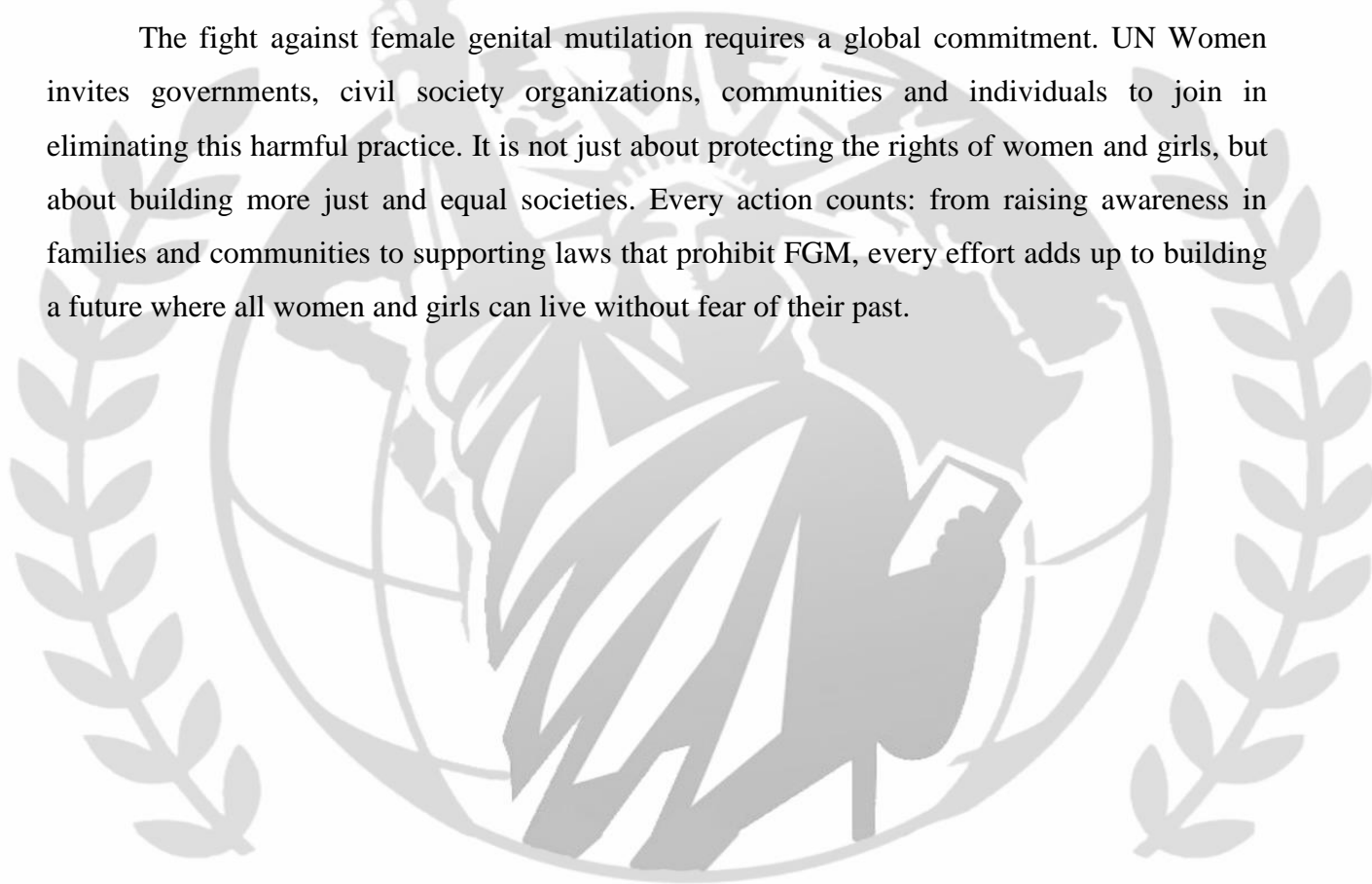
To effectively address FGM, reliable data is essential. UN Women supports research on the prevalence and consequences of FGM, which helps to formulate effective, evidence-based



strategies. Collecting disaggregated data allows for a better understanding of the dynamics of FGM in different contexts and populations, and is essential for planning appropriate interventions.

Despite the efforts of UN Women and many other actors, FGM remains a difficult problem to eradicate. The persistence of cultural norms, lack of education and resistance to change are significant obstacles. In addition, the humanitarian crisis in some regions, exacerbated by conflict and forced displacement, can aggravate the vulnerability of women and girls to FGM.

The fight against female genital mutilation requires a global commitment. UN Women invites governments, civil society organizations, communities and individuals to join in eliminating this harmful practice. It is not just about protecting the rights of women and girls, but about building more just and equal societies. Every action counts: from raising awareness in families and communities to supporting laws that prohibit FGM, every effort adds up to building a future where all women and girls can live without fear of their past.



### Chapter III: Committee standpoints and final recommendations

#### General Standpoint

The elimination of female genital mutilation (FGM) is a crucial goal in the fight for human rights and gender equality worldwide. This practice, which affects millions of women and girls, is based on deep-rooted cultural norms that perpetuate inequality and gender-based violence. Addressing this issue requires a comprehensive approach that combines education, awareness-raising, and community mobilization to challenge the traditional beliefs that underpin FGM.

Education is a fundamental tool for transforming perceptions and behaviors regarding FGM. By providing clear information about the physical and psychological risks associated with the practice, communities can be empowered to make informed decisions. Educational programs for men, women, and youth can help build a deeper understanding of the importance of women's health and rights, thus fostering a cultural shift toward more positive practices that respect women's physical and emotional integrity.

In addition to education, a legal framework that prohibits FGM and protects victims is essential. The implementation of effective laws, along with adequate oversight by authorities, can significantly contribute to the eradication of this practice. However, the existence of laws alone is not enough; communities must recognize the importance of complying with these regulations and work together to create an environment where FGM is neither accepted nor tolerated.

The role of community and religious leaders is vital in this process of change. When influential figures advocate for the elimination of FGM and promote alternatives that respect women's rights, this can have a significant impact on public perception and contribute to behavior change. Furthermore, involving women and girls in decision-making related to their bodies and health can be a transformative step toward their empowerment and autonomy.

Finally, collaboration between governments, non-governmental organizations, international institutions, and local communities is key to effectively addressing FGM. Building partnerships and mobilizing resources are essential to implementing sustainable programs that address the underlying causes of FGM. Only through a joint and committed effort can we achieve

a future in which all women and girls live free from this violation of their rights and can reach their full potential in an equitable society.

## Chapter IV: QARMAS

1. *What actions is UN WOMEN taking to address FGM?*
2. *What sociocultural effects does FGM have on African communities?*
3. *How will the customs of these communities be preserved and protected?*
4. *How would change against FGM be addressed?*
5. *How can communities get involved in eliminating FGM?*
6. *Is UN WOMEN's action considered an attack on intangible cultural property?*
7. *How will UN WOMEN approach be eliminating this practice? Is it feasible?*

## Final Recommendations

To conclude this study material, we would like to extend a list of recommendations that we hope you will keep in mind during the debate sessions. Remember that we will be available to assist you at all times.

1. Academia; as the Bureau, we expect nothing less than a fluid debate, so you will need a solid foundation. Use this study guide to further your preparation for the committee.
2. Always seek international collaboration; in a UN committee, this is key. We are not looking for delegates who focus on discussing policy differences, but rather for delegates who can unify and find solutions to the issue.

3. Stick to your foreign policy.
4. Treat everyone with respect; we will not tolerate disrespect of any kind, and this will impact your evaluation.
5. Make healthy efforts; remember that the most important thing is to have a good time and enjoy yourself. Give yourself the opportunity to get to know your fellow committee members.

#### Chapter V: Bibliographical References

1. World Health Organization (WHO). (2020). "Female Genital Mutilation: A Call to Action." Geneva: WHO. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/female-genital-mutilation>
2. UNICEF. (2016). "Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: A global concern." Nueva York: UNICEF. <https://www.unicef.org/es/topics/mutilaci%C3%B3n-genital-femenina>
3. UNESCO. (2018). "The Impact of Female Genital Mutilation on Women's Health." <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000261878>
4. ONU. (2025). "End female genital mutilation by 2030." Ginebra: ONU. <https://www.un.org/es/observances/female-genital-mutilation-day>
5. Shell-Duncan, B., & Hernlund, Y. (2000). "Female 'Circumcision' in Africa: Culture, Controversy, and Change." In Female Genital Cutting: A Critical Review of the Evidence. New York: The Population Council.

6. Yoder, P. S., & Abderrahim, N. (2014). "Female Genital Cutting in the Demographic and Health Surveys: A Critical and Comparative Analysis." In Demographic and Health Surveys Methodological Reports.
7. UN Women. (2019). The role of UN Women in ending female genital mutilation. Recuperado de <https://www.unwomen.org/en>
8. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) y UN Women. (2017). Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Accelerating Change. Recuperado de <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/joint-programme-female-genital-mutilationcutting-accelerating-change>
9. World Health Organization (WHO). (2018). Female Genital Mutilation: Key facts. Recuperado de <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/female-genital-mutilation>

*"Let us join forces to make female genital mutilation a thing of the past and ensure a brighter, healthier, and more just future for all women and girls around the world."*

**—António General, General Secretary**