



Third Regional Inter-Ministerial Meeting to End Cross Border Female Genital Mutilation in Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Republic of Kenya, Federal Republic of Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania and Republic of Uganda, 25th November 2021 in Kampala - Uganda

Recommitment to the Mombasa Declaration on Ending Cross Border Female Genital Mutilation in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Somalia of 17th April 2019.

We, the Ministers of Partner States, represented in the 3rd Ministerial-Level Meeting to strengthen coordination and cooperation to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation and in particular the cross-border dimensions, hosted by the Government of Uganda on 24th and 25th November in Kampala, Uganda.

Affirm; the commitments on "galvanizing political action towards the elimination of Female Genital Mutilation", (Ouagadougou 2018) and the African Union Continental Initiative to end Female Genital Mutilation (Assembly/AU/DEC757(XXXII) both reaffirming the Maputo Plan of Action to advance rights and choices for women and girls,

Cognizant; of the commitments made by Partner states in the first Inter-Ministerial Level Meeting to end Female Genital Mutilation in 2019 in Mombasa Kenya. *To strengthen coordination and cooperation to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation and in particular the cross-border dimensions,*

Concerned; that Female Genital Mutilation - the total or partial removal of female genitalia for non- medical reasons - violates the human rights and dignity of women and girls, and is a form of gender based violence,

Concerned; by estimates that globally more than 200 million girls and women alive today have undergone Female Genital Mutilation including in 30 countries in Africa, and that Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Somalia account for almost a quarter (an estimated 48.5 million),

Realizing; that COVID-19 has had far-reaching effects on the efforts to end Female Genital Mutilation,

Recognize; that Female Genital Mutilation is irreparable, irreversible abuse that poses a serious threat to the health of women and girls including their psychological, sexual and reproductive health, which can increase their vulnerability to Sexually Transmitted Infection (STIs) including HIV and adverse maternal and child health outcomes including death,

Recognize; that Female Genital Mutilation affects socio-economic well-being of women and girls and diminishes their ability to access education and economic livelihood opportunities,


Reaffirm; that the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child contribute to the legal framework for the protection and promotion of the rights of *girls* and women,

Recalling; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), which prohibits and condemns all forms of harmful practices and which requires Member States to take all necessary legislative and other measures to eliminate such practices,


Reiterate; our commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5, *Achieve gender- equality and empower- all women and girls* with target 5.3 which aims to *eliminate all harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation*, the Africa Union Agenda 2063; "The Africa We Want", where women and youth, especially young girls play an important role as drivers of change to adopt the necessary social and cultural change.



Noting; the initiative taken by the five Partner States on 3rd November 2021, to launch a costed regional action plan to end cross-border FGM, 2019-2024,

Further noting the need establish structures and allocate adequate resources to prevent, respond and eliminate cross-border FGM,

 **Inspired by** the progress made by Partner States in the implementation of the 2019-2024 regional action plan to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation including cross boarder dimensions,

Having shared information on good practices and emerging trends on Female Genital Mutilation in our countries,

 **Acknowledging** the continued good will and support of our respective Governments, Development Partners and UN Agencies,


 **Reaffirm;** that the elimination of this harmful practice requires collaboration and coordination at the regional, national and local levels through the leadership of national governments in partnership with United Nations agencies, African Union, Regional Economic Communities, non-government organizations, religious leaders, traditional leaders, community leaders, women and girls, and men and boys,

We hereby recommit to:

1. Re-commit to the Mombasa Declaration on ending Cross Border Female Genital Mutilation in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Somalia of 17 April 2019;
2. To implement the Costed Regional Action Plan to end Cross-Border Female Genital Mutilation 2019-2024;
3. Secure the support and commitment of Heads of States and Governments to prioritize and commit adequate financial resources to eliminate FGM in the five Member States;
4. Establish and operationalize structures and Regional, National, Sub-National, and Local levels to implement commitments made to eliminate FGM in the region;
5. Work with cultural and religious institutions, elders, men and boys to eliminate Female Genital Mutilation.

Signatories:

1. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
Ministry of Women and Children Affairs
Director of Child Rights
Mr. Balete Dagne

2. Republic of Kenya
Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs
Hon. Dr. Linet Jelili Kilimo, Chief Administrative Secretary, Ministry of Public Service and Gender and Development

3. Federal Republic of Somalia
Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development,
Minister, Hon. Hanifa Mohamed Ibrahim, Minister of Women, Human Rights and Development

4. United Republic of Tanzania
Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and minister,
Hon. Mwanaidi Alli Khamis, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children
5. Republic of Uganda
Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development
State Minister of Gender and Culture, Hon. Mutuuzo Peace Regis