

Motion for Resolution of the Assembly urging the East African Community to take action against the practice of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)

Whereas Article 5(3)(e) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (Treaty) on objectives of the Community obliges the Community to ensure ...enhancement of women in cultural, social, political, economic and technological development;

And Whereas Article 6 (d) of the Treaty on Fundamental Principles of the Community provides that such principles include inter alia, the rule of law, promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights in accordance with provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,

And whereas Article 121 of the Treaty, specifically provides for the role of women in socio-economic development. And in particular, Article 121(b) obliges Partner States to through appropriate legislative and other measures –abolish legislation and discourage customs that are discriminatory against women;

And whereas all East African Partner States are signatory to key international Conventions, notable among which is the International Declaration on Human Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and the Women's Rights Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights (Maputo Protocol);

Bearing in mind that the East African Partner States share borders; and thus have similar social, cultural and religious practices; **and bearing in mind** that with the establishment of a common market there is free movement of labour, goods, services, capital, and the right of establishment in accordance with article 76 of the treaty.

Recognizing that FGM comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. **Recognizing further** that in Africa, an estimated 92 million girls have undergone FGM and that it is practised in all the East African Community Partner States.

Acknowledging that FGM is internationally recognized as a violation of the human rights of girls and women. **And further acknowledging** that the 6th February is recognized as World Anti-FGM day; which date falls within this month of the Assembly's Meeting;

NOW THEREFORE, THIS ASSEMBLY do resolve as follows:

1. **That** all East African Community Partner States enact comprehensive laws that prohibit the practice of Female Genital Mutilation.
2. **That** all East African Community Partner States provide resources and put in place measures that will ensure laws that prohibit FGM are enforced.
3. **That** the Council of Ministers addresses the Assembly on 6th February or soon thereafter on measures taken by the East African Partner States to stop FGM.

I beg to move.

Moved by: **Hon. Dora C. Kanabahita Byamukama**

Secretary General, EALA Women's Forum

15th February, 2010