

United Nations
General Assembly
Sixty-ninth session
Agenda item 65(a)

**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
69/XX. Child, Early and Forced Marriage**

Child, early and forced marriage

The General Assembly,

PP1 Reaffirming its resolution [68/148](#) of 18 December 2013 on child, early and forced marriage,

PP2 Recalling its resolutions **66/140 of 19 December 2011 and 68/146** of 18 December 2013 on the girl child, and [67/144](#) of 20 December 2012 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, as well as Human Rights Council resolution 24/23 of 27 September 2013, entitled “Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps”,¹ **and all other previous resolutions relating to child, early and forced marriage,**

PP3 Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³ and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³ as well as other relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁴ and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁵ **together with the relevant Optional Protocols thereto,**

PP4 Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁶ as well as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,⁷ the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action⁸ and the outcome documents of their review conferences,

PP5 Recalling the Agreed Conclusions of the **57th and 58th sessions** of the Commission on the Status of Women,

PP6 Taking note with appreciation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report 26/22 of 2 April 2014 on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage, OHCHR report 27/34 of

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/68/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

² Resolution 217 A (III).

³ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁶ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

⁷ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁸ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

18 July 2014 on the panel discussion on preventing and eliminating child, early and forced marriage, and the summary report of the UNGA panel discussion of 5 September 2014,

PP7 *Recognizing* that child, early and forced marriage is a harmful practice that violates **abuses, or impairs** human rights **and is linked to and perpetuates other harmful practices and human rights violations**, that these violations have a disproportionately negative impact on women and girls, and underscoring States' human rights obligations and commitments to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls **and to prevent and eliminate the practice of child, early and forced marriage**,

PP8 *Deeply concerned* about the continued prevalence of child, early and forced marriage worldwide, including that approximately 15 million girls are married every year before they reach 18 years, and that more than 700 million women and girls alive today were married before their 18th birthday,

PP9 *Noting with concern* that the continued prevalence of child, early and forced marriage **has had a negative impact on** the achievement of Millennium Development Goals **1-6**, and their overarching aims, including in the areas of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, poverty reduction, education, **maternal and child mortality**, health, including sexual and reproductive health, and recognizing that child, early and forced marriage continues to impair sustainable **development**, inclusive economic growth and social cohesion,

PP10 *Noting with concern* that poverty and insecurity are among the root causes of child, early and forced marriage, that child, early and forced marriage remains common in rural areas and among the poorest communities, and recognizing that **the immediate alleviation and eventual eradication of extreme poverty must remain a high priority for the international community**,

PP10bis *Recognizing also* that child, early and forced marriage is itself a barrier to development and helps to perpetuate the cycle of poverty and that the risk of child, early and forced marriage is also exacerbated in conflict and humanitarian crisis situations,

PP11 *Recognizing* that child, early and forced marriage is inherently linked to deep-rooted gender inequalities, norms and stereotypes, and harmful practices, perceptions and customs that are obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights and that the persistence of child, early and forced marriage places children, in particular the girl child, at risk of being exposed to and encountering various forms of discrimination and violence throughout her life,

PP12 *Recognizing* that child, early and forced marriage undermines women's and girls' autonomy and decision-making in all aspects of their lives and continues to be an impediment to improvements in the **education**, economic and social status of women **and girls** in all parts of the world, and that the empowerment of and investment in **women and girls** is critical for economic growth, including the **eradication of poverty**, as well as the meaningful participation of **women and girls** in all decisions that affect them,

PP13 Noting with concern that child, early and forced marriage disproportionately affects girls who have received little or no formal education, and is itself a significant obstacle to educational opportunities for girls and young women, in particular girls who are forced to drop out of school owing to marriage and/or childbirth, and recognizing that educational opportunities are directly related to women's and girls' empowerment, employment, and economic opportunities, and their active participation in economic, social and cultural development, governance and decision-making,

PP14 Recognizing that child, early and forced marriage constitutes a serious threat to multiple aspects of the physical and psychological health of women and girls, including but not limited to their sexual and reproductive health, significantly increasing the risk of early, frequent **and unintended** pregnancy, maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity, obstetric fistula, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS as well as increasing vulnerability to **all** forms of violence, and that every girl and woman at risk of or affected by these practices must have **equal** access to quality services like education, counselling, shelter **and other social services**, psychological, sexual and reproductive health **care** services and medical care,

OP1 Urges all States to **enact, enforce and uphold** laws and policies **aimed at preventing and** ending child, early and forced marriage and protecting those at risk, and ensure that marriage is entered into only with the informed, free and full consent of the intending spouses,

OP2 Calls on States, with the participation of relevant stakeholders, including girls, religious and community leaders, civil society, women's and human rights groups, men and boys, and youth organizations, to develop and implement holistic, comprehensive and coordinated responses and strategies to eliminate child, early and forced marriage and to support already married **girls, adolescents, and women** including through **strengthening of child protection systems, protection mechanisms such as safe shelters, access to justice and** the sharing of best practices across borders,

OP2bis Calls upon States and the international community to create an environment in which the wellbeing of women and girls is ensured, inter alia, by cooperating, supporting and participating in efforts for the eradication of extreme poverty, and reaffirming that investment in women and girls and the protection of their rights are among the most effective ways to end the practice of child, early and forced marriage,

OP2ter Calls upon States to promote and protect women and girls' right to education through an enhanced emphasis on quality education, including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, while recognizing that education is one of the most effective ways to prevent and end child, early and forced marriage and to allow for married women and girls to make more informed choices about their lives,

OP3 Urges governments to promote and protect the human rights of all women and girls, including their right to have control over and decide freely and

responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, and adopt and accelerate the implementation of laws, policies and programmes which protect and enable the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including their reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and their review outcomes,

OP3bis Encourages relevant UN entities and agencies to continue to collaborate with and support member states in developing and implementing strategies and policies at the national, regional and international levels to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage, as well as to support already married girls, adolescents, and women,

OP4 *Recalls* the inclusion of a target on eliminating all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage in the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, **recognizes child, early and forced marriage as a barrier to development and the full realization of women's and girls' human rights**, and recognises **the need to give due consideration to its inclusion** in the post-2015 development agenda in order to help ensure progress towards the elimination of child, early and forced marriage,

OP5 *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report before the end of its **70th** session on progress towards ending child, early and forced marriage worldwide since A/HRC/26/22, with particular emphasis on high prevalence countries, best practices for programs aimed at ending the practice and supporting already married women and girls, gaps in research and implementation, and legal reforms and policies related to this matter, using information provided by Member States, United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, civil society and other relevant stakeholders,

OP6 *Also decides* to consider the issue of child, early and forced marriage **at its 71st session** under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of the rights of children" taking into account the multifaceted and worldwide nature of the issue of child, early and forced marriage.
