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Strengthening National Advocacy Efforts

THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS

ON CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE & FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



06 APRIL 2023
(THURSDAY)



8.30 AM - 10.00 AM
EDT (NEW YORK TIME)

01. Opening

Nankali Maksud

Senior Advisor,
Prevention of Harmful Practices,
Child Protection, UNICEF Headquarters



02. Welcoming Remarks

Anne Grandjean

Human Rights Specialist,
Programme Group, UNICEF



03. Speaker

UNGA77 Child, Early and Forced Marriage Resolution

Manal Al-Ayad
Senior Policy Advisor,
Global Affairs Canada



The Context

- Biennial resolution co-led by Canada and Zambia.
- Canada and Zambia developed the first-ever UNGA resolution on child, early and forced marriage (CEFM) in 2013.
- Last year (UNGA77) marked the fifth time that the CEFM resolution was presented.
- Record total of 125 co-sponsors and broad cross-regional engagement.
- Canada also supports biennial CEFM negotiations at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The next CEFM resolution at the UNHRC will be negotiated in June 2023 (TBC)



THE CONTEXT (Cont'd)

01.

Heightened **backlash** and continued **rollback** against **gender equality and women and girls' rights** at the UN and across multilateral fora.

02.

Pronounced **hostility and division** on these issues in **Third Committee**.



FLASHPOINTS

- Sexual and gender-based violence
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights, including comprehensive sexuality education
- Multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination
- Adolescent girls
- Intimate partner violence
- The role of parents and family



STRATEGY & NEGOTIATIONS (Cont'd)

- Several months of preparation **consulting and engaging with civil society**, with the **UNICEF-UNFPA Global Programme** and with countries in the **Resolution Core Group** to draft the text of the resolution, followed by two months of intense negotiation and adoption by both the Third Committee and the General Assembly as a whole.
- Negotiating process for the UNGA CEFM resolution is **an important advocacy process on a global level** to galvanize support in the form of co-sponsoring countries for gender equality and the elimination of CEFM.
- The resolution is **an important tool for raising the profile of CEFM** at a global level, conducting **international consensus building** by convening UN member states for several weeks of discussion via the negotiations, and **ensuring the inclusion of eliminating CEFM as a priority** in the international development agenda.

STRATEGY & NEGOTIATIONS

Zero draft version of the resolution on CEFM built on the UNGA75 (2020) resolution and aimed to strengthen particular areas or introduce new themes, notably:

- New language on the **uneven nature of progress to end child, early and forced marriage** over the past decade;
- New language on the urgent need to **accelerate action to end CEFM** for the **poorest and most marginalized girls**, including girls with disabilities and those in humanitarian settings;
- Strengthened language on **girls' heightened risk of sexual and gender-based violence** in the context of CEFM;
- Strengthened language on the need for **quality and inclusive education**, technical and vocation education and training for girls;
- New references to the **disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work** shouldered by women and girls;
- New language on **multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination** which create unique experiences of oppression and discrimination and increase the risk that some girls face to CEFM;
- New language on the ways in which **climate change and conflict** exacerbate the factors that drive CEFM;
- New language on the need to close **legal loopholes** that can undermine the efficacy of legal protections for girls against CEFM.

04. Speaker

Intensifying Global Efforts for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation

Odette Niamba

Minister Counselor, Permanent Mission
of Burkina Faso to the United Nations



The Context

- The first draft resolution was included as a resolution of the African Group with Burkina Faso as facilitator of the negotiations.
- It was adopted by consensus for the first time on 20 December 2012 by the General Assembly under the title "Intensifying global action to eliminate FGM".
- The resolution is revised every two years.



Review process

- The review process began when the Secretary General's report on the issue was available.
- The delegation of Burkina Faso, as facilitator, proposed an initial draft to the African Group.
- After discussions and amendments within the Group, a consensus version was presented to all UN member states for negotiations.



Review process

- Resolution is prepared on the basis of the previous resolution, the new developments identified in the Secretary General's report and the FGM resolution adopted in 2022 in Geneva
- FGM resolution = African Group resolution
- Burkina Faso always goes back to the African Group
- Long and hard process.



FGM Resolution 2022: new language

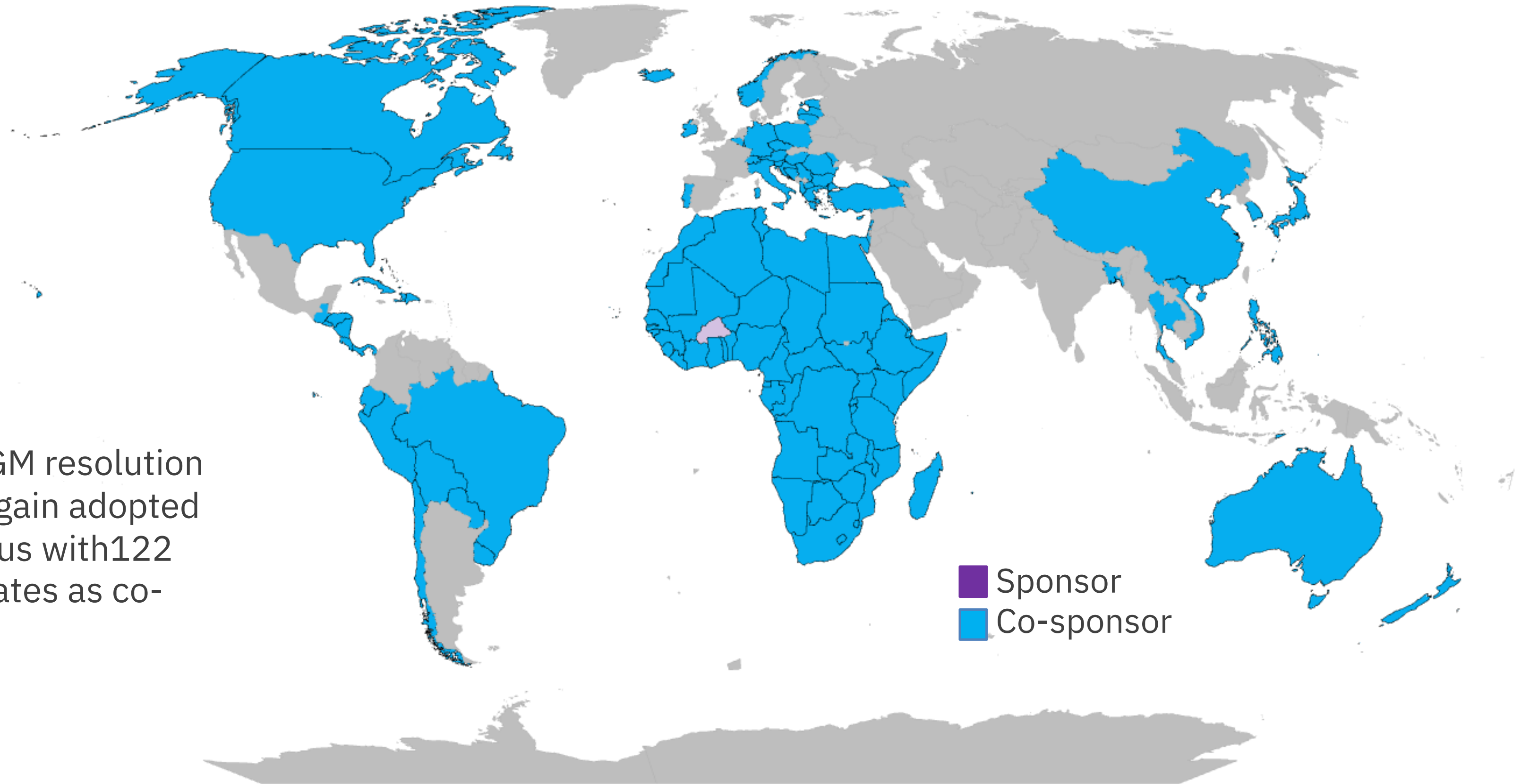
- Reference to the negative impact of global humanitarian crises, conflicts, and the COVID-19 pandemic on FGM
- Concern about the increasing transnational and cross-border practice of FGM
- Global trend toward a decline in the practice of FGM. However, progress has been uneven, and the decline is not yet rapid enough
- Cases underreported
- Appeal to continue global efforts and actions to combat the practice of FGM taking into account recent developments
- Ensure protection and support for women and girls who undergo or are at risk of undergoing cross-border and transnational FGM

FGM Resolution 2022: new language

- Cooperation between States and with civil society
- Need to harmonize legislation and policies between States and/or to introduce improved cross-border surveillance systems for tracking FGM cases
- Adequate fund of programs and mechanisms to eliminate FGM with the contribution and active participation of all actors at national, regional and international levels
- Training of humanitarian personnel for denunciations or/and accompaniment of victims
- Need to take into account humanitarian and emergency situations in collecting data on FGM

World map

In 2022, FGM resolution was once again adopted by consensus with 122 Member States as co-sponsors



**THE ELIMINATION OF FGM IS AND
MUST CONTINUE TO BE CONSIDERED
AS A PRIORITY IN ORDER TO
PROTECT WOMEN AND GIRLS WHO
ARE SURVIVORS OR ARE AT RISK.**

05. Panel Discussion



Cassandra Morin

Second Secretary of Human Rights at the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN



Daniela Tonon

First Counsellor Permanent Mission of Italy to the UN



Odette Niamba,

Minister Counselor, Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the UN

THANK YOU!

