



INTER-AFRICAN COMMITTEE ON TRADITIONAL PRACTICES (IAC)
Affecting the Health of Women and Children

COMITÉ INTER-AFRICAIN SUR LES PRATIQUES TRADITIONNELLES (CI-AF)
Affectant la santé des femmes et des enfants

Press release
International Zero Tolerance Day for Female Genital Mutilation
February 6, 2019

Theme:

“Translate political decisions into concrete actions at the grassroots to accelerate the achievement of zero tolerance to female genital mutilation in 2030.”

It is important to remember that on 6 February 2003, the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices Affecting the Health of Women and Children (IAC) closed in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), its international conference on Tolerance Zero to Genital Mutilation with the participation of all partners, including the United Nations which accepted the proposal of the Inter-African Committee to celebrate February 6, the anniversary of the creation of the Inter-African Committee, as the International Day on Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Every year, since 2004, governments, the United Nations system, civil society organizations and people of good will have been mobilizing to take stock of the fight to eliminate female genital mutilation, and plan future actions to accelerate the achievement of zero tolerance for FGM by 2030.

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Nb. 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower women and girls. And sub-goal 5.3: "Eliminate all forms of harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation."

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It must be recognized that despite this global mobilization supported by important instruments, including the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, on Women's Rights, Resolution A / RES / 67/146 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and the various projects and national programs, 68 million girls are likely to undergo this practice.

Given the gravity of the situation and also the hope generated by the results obtained in recent years, the African Union launched in October 2018 in Burkina Faso its program of struggle for the elimination of female genital mutilation with the appointment of His Excellency the President of Burkina Faso, Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, as the champion responsible for holding the leadership of advocacy at the African and international level.

This designation reinforces my commitment and that of the Inter-African Committee, of which I have the honor to be the Goodwill Ambassador.

Indeed, the 29 national committees of the African countries members of the IAC and the 22 affiliates in non-African countries, continue to work with courage, determination and self-sacrifice in close collaboration with all partners engaged in this noble struggle.

Recent statistics announcing a significant decline in the prevalence of FGM in Africa are a cause for satisfaction but should not lead us to complacency and relaxation of the pressure we put on all endogenous and exogenous factors that underlie this harmful traditional practice.

On February 6, 2019, let us demonstrate again that as long as there is one girl potentially a victim of female genital mutilation, our struggle will continue with the same vigor and determination.

To all members of the Inter-African Committee, to all committed countries, to African subregional organizations, to the African Union, to the United Nations system, to civil society, to private organizations, to communities, to women and men of good will, I extend my warm congratulations and my encouragements that by 2030, or why not before, female genital mutilation is banished from the world.

Stop FGM!

For the Inter-African Committee

Ms. Sika Kaboré

First Lady of Burkina Faso

Goodwill Ambassador of the IAC