Forum: Human Rights Council

Question of: Empowering Women in Africa through Increasing Access to Contraception

Main-submitted by: Russian Federation

Co-Submitted by: Botswana, Haiti, Iran

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

*Emphasizing* that the use of contraception in Africa only grew by 3.4% from 1900 to 2015 and in that around 24.2% of African women of reproductive age (15-49) who need contraception do not have access to it,

*Aware of the fact* that African women on average give birth to about 4.7 children compared to the global average of 2.5 children,

*Deeply concerned* that Africa’s population is estimated to rise from 1.2 to 6.1 billion by 2100, which given the limited amounts of natural resources on earth, could lead to the depletion of resources in Africa and further civil conflicts and terrorisms for scarce resources,

*Bearing in mind* that goal 3.7 of goal 3 in the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN) specifically targets universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services,

*Recognizes* the 14 million–or 11 percent of the total births—annual cases of unintended pregnancies occurring in sub Saharan Africa on average,

*Recalling* the UN’s continuous initiatives in family planning such as the United Nations Global Strategy for Women’s, Children’s, and Adolescent's and Family Planning 2020,

*Fully aware* of how the consequences of lacking contraception include unintended pregnancy, unsafe abortion, sexually transmitted infections, and pregnancy-related mortality,

*Deeply concerned* of the UNFPA Supplies’ urgent need of $192 million for 2020 to be able to continue its support to countries,

1. Insists that the governments of African member states strive to achieve gender equality and better recognize women’s rights through means such as but not limited to:
	1. improving the recognition of women and their work through ways such as but not limited to:
		1. encouraging the employment of women through increasing the number of female leaders in ministries and governmental institutions,
		2. ensuring that women’s wages are higher than the minimum wages set by the government through advising the ministry of employment to collect and respond to anonymous reports on violations,
	2. promoting equal access to education for women in ways such as but not limited to:
		1. increasing the number of schools for girls through cooperating with and funding from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF),
		2. encouraging well-educated teachers and professors from MEDCs (More Economically Developed Countries) to come serve at schools by teaching girls subjects aiding them to be better qualified for jobs,
		3. promoting free state schools so that girls in poverty can still receive education,
		4. providing much needed supplies to schools such as textbooks, meals, desks, and chairs to educate girls through the cooperation with UNICEF,
	3. legally ensuring women’s control and ownership of property, inheritance, and financial resources,
	4. enforcing the penalties of those who commit sexual and gender-based violence through ways such as but not limited to:
		1. Raising the fines to be paid for gender-based violence by thirty percent
		2. Removing laws that may mitigate a gender-based violence perpetrator’s sentence
		3. Removing the statute of limitations for gender-based violence crimes
	5. aiming to settle political unrest within the state to provide an environment to fully support women’s rights,
	6. advising the legislature to cooperate with regional and country offices of UN Women when drafting regulations such as but not limited to:
		1. the right to decide sexual relations without pressure from men,
		2. the right to decline sexual relations with men who choose not use contraceptives;

1. Supports citizens of member states to participate in the campaign begun by the Solidarity for African Women’s Rights (SOAWR) Coalition to urge governments in signing and ratifying the Maputo Protocol that legally binds the guarantee of women’s rights;
2. Directs the UNFPA to further develop the Global Programme to Enhance Reproductive Health Commodity Security (RHCS) by establishing a regional Family Planning Center in every member state to help the well-being of women through means such as but not limited to:
	1. holding regional programs in rural communities to alleviate women’s fears toward speaking the truth and utilizing contraceptives with the help of local health workers trained by the UNFPA in ways such as but not limited to:
		1. counseling women who express concerns regarding unwanted pregnancies,
		2. proposing potential solutions and providing guidance for victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse,
	2. educating women through holding sessions at the Center on information such as but not limited to:
		1. numerous contraception methods (such as condoms, contraceptive pills which contain synthetic sex hormones preventing ovulation, and intrauterine devices) and their exact usages to prevent health issues and pregnancies,
		2. benefits of contraception such as reducing poverty and morbidity rates,
	3. visiting schools to educate the youth on contraception and other information alike to what is mentioned in sub-clause b of clause 3,
	4. supplying contraceptives for women to freely access and utilize,
	5. sending doctors from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Foundation to reduce the side effects of contraception by carrying out health check-ups of potentially pregnant women and young women through ways such as but not limited to:
		1. Bimonthly blood checks,
		2. Bimonthly body checks,
		3. Weekly visits from psychologists;
3. Suggests member states and the UNFPA to cooperate in distributing contraceptives during crises such as ongoing wars or natural disasters through means such as but not limited to:
	1. creating an emergency plan to distribute contraceptives when unforeseen circumstances arise within the state,
	2. cooperating with the UN Peacekeeping forces by supplying the operation sites with contraceptives provided by UNFPA Supplies,
	3. ensuring that states have the enough contraceptives during the crises with the help of regional offices checking every month;

1. Encourages local and international NGOs such as Pathfinder International to raise awareness on the importance of the issue and the status quo through ways such as but not limited to:
	1. communicating with governments to promote the need of taking specific measures such as but not limited to:
		1. developing a national RHCS strategy,
		2. securing governmental commitment to increasing access to contraception at a national level,
		3. including reproductive health (RH) essential medicines advised by the WHO such as oral hormonal contraceptives in the national essential drug list,
		4. ensuring the establishment of a national coordinating body,
	2. publishing instructional videos and pamphlets to distribute on platforms such as but not limited to:
		1. TV commercials,
		2. Radio stations,
		3. TV News platforms,
		4. Newspapers,
	3. encouraging the participation of students in raising awareness about the limited access to contraception in Africa through cooperating with institutions in ways such as but not limited to:
		1. making posters to put on walls, buildings, and stores within the community,
		2. raising funds for women in need of contraception in Africa,
		3. discussing other creative ways to solve the issue,

1. Calls for MEDCs to financially support the works of the UN and the UNFPA by making donations to funds like UNFPA Supplies which would be used and monitored in ways such as but not limited to:
	1. promoting culturally sensitive and client friendly family planning to reduce the effects of overpopulation and unwanted pregnancies,
	2. providing contraceptives free of charge for women in need of such supplies through the regional centers mentioned in clause 2,
	3. publicizing the UNFPA’s Annual Report on the statistics and specific usages of collected donations to sustain the fund’s transparency;

1. Recommends member states of the African Union (AU) to develop a unified system that aids women’s safe and equal access to contraception across Africa by discussing specific measures during the annual AU Summit such as but not limited to:
	1. encouraging the markets of each state to increase the availability and supply of contraceptives through providing subsidies for local manufacturers,
	2. setting price floors on contraceptives for all women of different socioeconomic backgrounds to have an equal access to such supplies,
	3. regularly monitoring the hygiene of production sites manufacturing contraceptives and reporting the observations to the UN,
	4. cooperating with and aiding the UNFPA through educating workers on the cultural values of member states toward contraception;

1. Requests the Secretary General of the UN to deliver a report on the points discussed in this resolution to all delegations and organizations, such as the UNFPA and UN Women, involved in implementing these suggested solutions.
2. Suggests member states to increase the awareness of men and public as a whole about this issue and encourage men to take part in empowering women’s rights through actions such as but not limited to:
	1. having informative advertisement to inform the public about the severity of this issue,
	2. making people be aware that this crime is a problem from the men and women’s interaction and that they are both responsible for such problems,
	3. updating the public’s knowledge on the current laws of these actions so that they are aware that it is clearly illegal;