

TQO: Access to Female Hygiene Products

Committee: Health and Youth

Submitted by: China

The Health and Youth Committee,

Recognizing that access to menstrual health care and hygiene products is a fundamental human right and essential for the dignity, health, and well-being of individuals, particularly women and girls,

Acknowledging that menstruation is a natural and universal biological process, yet millions of individuals around the world still face significant barriers to accessing safe, affordable, and adequate menstrual products and health services,

Concerned by the widespread issue of period poverty, which affects individuals in both developed and developing nations, resulting in missed educational opportunities, economic setbacks, and a compromised quality of life,

Deeply concerned by the stigma and cultural taboos surrounding menstruation, which often exacerbate the challenges faced by individuals in accessing essential menstrual health products and information,

Recognizing the critical role of menstrual health in promoting gender equality, and the need for inclusive, culturally sensitive, and effective solutions to address the specific needs of all individuals, including marginalized communities, refugees, and those living in poverty,

Reaffirming the commitment of the international community to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), Goal 4 (Quality Education), and Goal 5 (Gender Equality), by addressing the barriers to menstrual health and hygiene,

1. *Calls for* the creation of a new UN subbody under UN WOMEN to be called the United Nations Organisation for Menstrual Health (UNOMH), which would work in conjunction with the WHO, UNICEF, Women's Major Group and all relevant member states and NGOs, and would be overseen and regulated by accredited officials from UN WOMEN, and with any necessary funding to come from the World Bank, to increase awareness and access to feminine hygiene products and gynecologists through methods including but not limited to:
 - a. The organisation of a biennial meeting of the UNOMH in Geneva, Switzerland to discuss and plan further initiatives to increase awareness and access to feminine hygiene products and gynecologists,

- b. Develop a set of quality indicators to clarify the best practices and ensure all countries have fair access to any products and services in relation to menstrual health, such indicators could include;
 - i. The global elimination of taxes on feminine hygiene products,
 - ii. The number of locations or outlets where female hygiene products are available,
 - iii. The calculation for cost of hygiene products in relation to the average income or socioeconomic status of the population, particularly in low-income areas,
 - iv. The cost of hygiene products in relation to the average income or socioeconomic status of the population, particularly in low-income areas,
 - v. Availability of hygiene products in emergency or crisis situations;
 - c. Educational programmes for young citizens, through fixed and mobile education centers, to recognise and improve the general knowledge around menstrual health, as well as by incorporating specialised programs into existing education systems that aim to educate both males and females on the topic,
 - d. Work in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund to ensure that proper, sanitary menstrual health supplies and waste disposal systems are present within each member state, and ensuring the provision of female hygiene products in essential services such as healthcare facilities, schools and shelters,
 - e. Development of a clear framework for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of all programs and initiatives suggested in this resolution and any other measures taken by the UNOMH, ensuring accountability and transparency in funding disbursement,
 - f. Encourage research into new, environmentally friendly feminine hygiene products, and promote the use of menstrual cups and biodegradable sanitary pads, to reduce pollution by these products;
2. *Suggests* the creation of an educational scheme, tailored to local contexts and ensuring cultural sensitivity, throughout schools globally for students aged 8 to 15 to provide them with age-appropriate education on topics surrounding menstrual health and to do the following:
- a. Educate both males and females on menstrual health, the psychological impact of the menstrual cycle and the importance of menstrual hygiene,
 - b. Educate females on the proper, safe use and disposal of feminine hygiene products,

- c. Encouraging open discussion around menstruation to break stigma, increase understanding and promote the normalisation of conversations surrounding menstrual health in schools, workplaces and communities,
 - d. Educating students about available resources, including local programs, nonprofits, and government initiatives, that provide free or low-cost menstrual hygiene products to those in need,
 - e. Informing students about access to menstrual health care services, including the availability of healthcare professionals who can provide advice, treatment, and support for menstrual-related issues, from common discomforts to more complex health conditions such as endometriosis;
3. Supports the establishment of a mass media campaign to be overseen by UNOMH and funded by the World Bank, tailored to local contexts, ensuring cultural sensitivity and addressing regional disparities in access to media, which would utilize any and all forms of media deemed necessary by member nations, in order to but not limited to:
- a. Educate the public about the importance of access to feminine hygiene products, and the consequences of inadequate menstrual hygiene on women's overall health,
 - b. Raise awareness of the lack of access to feminine hygiene products and menstrual health care, period poverty and dissipate stigma and shame around menstruation,
 - c. Inform the public of donation and support drives to donate feminine hygiene products;
4. Encourages any member states involved in armed conflict, humanitarian aid organisations, and governments to ensure the uninterrupted supply and distribution of feminine hygiene products to women and girls in conflict zones, including integrating menstrual health education and the provision of culturally sensitive, environmentally sustainable products into emergency response plans, with special attention to vulnerable populations in displacement camps and remote areas, with collaboration for funding, research, and sustainable solutions, alongside monitoring and accountability to ensure effective distribution and advocates for menstrual hygiene as a key component of women's rights in conflict, aiming to protect the dignity, health, and well-being of these women and girls;
5. Recommends the creation of a grant scheme, which will be issued on a case by case basis and monitored by UNOMH and relevant UN bodies in order to ensure that these funds are being put to use accordingly for the issue at hand, with the withdrawal of such from any organisations found to be misusing these funds, which would be offered to any member nations wishing to improve the provision of feminine hygiene products within their borders, set up any research programs surrounding the topic or increase aid and support offered to women to be funded by the World Bank and in order to:

- a. Fund the development of any specialised infrastructure or technology required for research, provision of these hygiene products or healthcare, especially in LEDCs where this infrastructure or technologies may not be available, to ensure the efficient and sustainable implementation of this resolution,
 - b. Support the educational initiatives outlined in this resolution, to ensure a fair and equal education about the topic for all member states, especially in nations where a proper education around the topic is uncommon or non-existent;
6. Proposes a commencement date of March 2026 for clause 1 of this resolution.