

Human Rights Council

September 15, 2017

Annual Discussion on Integration of a Gender Perspective (HRC res. 6/30)

Statement by: the Swedish Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights – RFSL

Joined by: International Lesbian and Gay Association

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Thank you, Mr. President,

The Agenda 2030 – a platform for development, growth and contribution – is built on the promise to leave no one behind, and this includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex persons.

During the past 10 years of the UPR more than 1370 recommendations have been made on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics issues. Some of these are related to areas that are targets of the SDGs, including good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities. However, a vast group of issues that deeply matter to LGBTI persons have been largely neglected: these includes medical abuses, participation in public life, right to housing among others. .

Both the UPR and the Agenda 2030 are universal: they apply to all states, and aim to leave no one behind. However, they also share an important gap that must be addressed: the lack of a process to measure the level of implementation. This is something that both should improve if they wish to be effective in follow-up and implementation.

The SDGs can, however, learn some lessons from the UPR process. For example, in a recent survey, 89% of LGBTI defenders mentioned that they already do some type of implementation work themselves, for example by having regular follow-up meetings with other NGOs, their NHRI or their governments to discuss the results of the UPR.¹

It is crucial that the UPR and the SDGs are inclusive and open for LGBTI organizations as they both represent historic opportunities to reduce economic, social and political inequality. This is only possible if we leave no one behind.

During both processes, States need to show the progress made in advancing the recommendations and the goals they have set. It is apparent, however, that for the UPR, States frequently fail to report on the advances made or challenges faced in progress on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics -SOGIESC- issues. Similarly, in the context of Agenda 2030, Voluntary National Reports lack SOGIESC focus in the majority of cases. Whilst we congratulate the 14 states², that have included LGBT issues in their voluntary national reports, we encourage the others to include such information and to share good practices and concrete actions in this crucial area.

I thank you Mr. President,

¹ 2016, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression and Sex Characteristics at the Universal Periodic Review. ARC International, IBAHRI and ILGA

² 2016: Estonia, France, Germany, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, Philippines and Venezuela. 2017: Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Czech Republic, Portugal, and Uruguay.