

36th Human Rights Council

September 13, 2017

ITEM 3 – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on right to development

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

Joined by: International Lesbian and Gay Association

Delivered by *Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera*

Thank you, Mr. President,

We welcome and support the work of the new Special Rapporteur on the right to development. Indeed, the right to development is an essential element of universal and inalienable human rights, making the human person the central subject, an active participant and the beneficiary of development. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex persons, however, are often not able to participate in, contribute to and enjoy such economic, social, cultural and political development and instead face multiple forms of violence and discrimination.

We notice that the report mentions several challenges to the realization of the right to development. One of those is the politicization and the lack of engagement by States, and we hope that the work of the SR helps foster dialogue and create entry points on the nature and duties of States to realize the right to development. This is truly a time to reinvigorate the advocacy process of the implementation of the right to development in the world.

We welcome that the SR will be guided by the inclusiveness in all aspects of his work. In fact, some sectors and groups of the world have progressed at a slower rate and existing inequalities have sadly been exacerbated as others have benefited.

One of these groups that are frequently left behind are LGBTI persons, who are at heightened risk of being discriminated against and excluded. Structural and societal barriers result in discrimination and institutional violence. It is further often linked with other factors, such as gender, race, socioeconomic status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, sex characteristics, drug use or HIV status.

Mr. President,

We congratulate the SR on his approach to paying attention to the gender dimension in his work and we hope that further reports will in particular consider the specific challenges of lesbian and bisexual women, trans and intersex persons.

Last year this Council highlighted the urgent need to make the right to development a reality for everyone by creating this mandate, and this should also include LGBTI persons from around the world. We stand ready to work with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to development to ensure that the situation of all persons is included, including those who are LGBTI.

I thank you Mr. President

