

**Human Rights Council
September 13, 2018
Clustered Interactive Dialogue: SR on the right to development and SR on unilateral
coercive measures
Statement by: the Swedish Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender
Rights – RFSL**

Joined by: International Lesbian and Gay Association

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Mr. President, I am speaking on behalf of a coalition of 20 LGBTQI human rights defenders from all regions who are present at this Council Session.

We welcome the report presented by the Special Rapporteur on the right to development and its connection with the right to equality. Reiterating the existing international human rights norms, the report highlights that the right to development is closely linked with the principles of equality and non-discrimination, including on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics.

In all regions, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, and Intersex people are at risk of being left behind in development policies, programs and implementation of the Agenda 2030 and this has a direct consequence on the enjoyment of the right to development. We applaud that the report highlights the need for disaggregated data. It is important that such data is disaggregated by sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, and we value that governments like Mexico, Costa Rica and Canada have included specific information on this regard in their voluntarily national reports.

It is essential that LGBTQI people have equal access to development, and that we are recognized as equal stakeholders, and can actively participate in society, and reach our full potential. It is also crucial that our rights to development are ensured through adopting legal and policy reforms.

States should recognize that LGBTQI people are also important contributors to sustainable development. We, as everyone else, are duty bearers of Agenda 2030. We are ready to collaborate with our states and all other stakeholders to ensure that sustainable development is achieved.

Agenda 2030 is calling. Let us all make sure that no one is left behind.

Thank you!