



50th Human Rights Council session

16 June 2022, 15:00hr

ITEM 3 – Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on SOGI

Statement by International Lesbian and Gay Association

Delivered by Diego Quesada Nicoli

Mr. President,

It is my pleasure to deliver this statement on behalf of ILGA World.

We acknowledge the important effort made by the mandate in underpinning his analysis of SOGIESC issues through the lens of the Sustainable Development Goals, and we commend the recommendations made in his report on health and SDG3. We strongly agree with his view that the States' negligence to address the challenges faced by LGBTI persons compromise the achievement of the Agenda 2030.

We also welcome the Independent Expert's consideration of SOGI, disability rights, and freedom from torture frameworks to approach intersex issues and his recommendation for States to ban all medically unnecessary surgeries on intersex children.

We think it is crucial to guarantee the right to health with an intersectional lens and acknowledge the interconnectivity with other SDGs, such as SDG 5. In this sense, it is essential to recognize the influence of gender assumptions on the experiences of LGBTI persons, particularly on their health outcomes. Hence, we echo the mandate's concerns on the current issues of criminalization, pathologization, stigmatization and negation of LGBTI identities. We also share the reflections raised in the report on adopting sexuality education and training for health workers, legal gender recognition, and universal health coverage as key aspects that could dismantle the barriers to full inclusion of LGBTI persons in health systems and policies. On this aspect, we would like to ask the Independent Expert: how do you hope to engage with countries that refuse to provide gender sensitization training to their health workers and even criminalize any act favoring LGBTI persons?

Finally, we encourage the mandate to continue mainstreaming LGBTI issues through the development framework and to join forces with the Special Rapporteur on health to ensure the implementation of non-binary approaches to gender and the adoption of SOGIESC-inclusive health strategies in all States.

I thank you, Mr. President.