

## **50th session of the Human Rights Council**

### **High-level commemorative event on the occasion of the 50th session of the Human Rights Council: achievements and lessons learned**

#### **Statement by the International Lesbian and Gay Association Wednesday, 15 June 2022**

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex. Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics. Before the establishment of the Human Rights Council, these words were very rarely spoken out loud in these rooms or found in any United Nations documents.

Mr. President,

This UN body, through the work of its mechanisms, the constructive dialogue of member states and the tireless efforts of civil society and human rights defenders, has taken important steps to break the silence and to document and address violations based on SOGIESC and/or experienced by LGBTI persons.

3.464. This is the number of recommendations addressing SOGIESC at the Universal Periodic Review during its three cycles.

Only in 2021, 40 different Special Procedures mandate holders sent 52 new communications, issued 8 country visits reports and published 54 thematic reports that address LGBTI issues in different degrees, highlighting the role of the Council in mainstreaming SOGIESC.

Crucial progress was made in adopting an intersectional lens and looking into root causes of stigma and discrimination faced by, inter alia, LBT women, LGBTI youth and LGBTI persons with disabilities.

In 2011, the Council adopted the first-ever UN resolution on sexual orientation and gender identity, and in 2016 it established the mandate of the Independent Expert on violence and discrimination on these grounds – a still much-needed human rights mechanism that is a beacon of hope to LGBTI persons across the globe.

Mr. President,

Sitting here in this room, one might have a wrongful feeling that we have achieved enough. The living realities of our communities in all regions of the world still are widespread violence, discrimination and many other human rights violations and abuses.

We, therefore, urge this Council and all stakeholders to raise their efforts to protect, promote and fulfil human rights for all, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or sex characteristics.

I thank you.