

**Universal Periodic Review
HRC Panel on National Follow-up systems and processes (HRC Res. 30/25)
November 9, 2016**

**Statement by:
International Lesbian and Gay Association**

**Joined by:
ARC International
International Bar Association**

Delivered by: Nada Chaiyajit

Thank you Mr. President,

ILGA, the International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) and ARC International will launch a report today assessing the role of the UPR in advancing the protection of human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people worldwide, and addressing sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) issues. We would like to kindly **invite all of you to our side event, which will be held today at 14:30 in room XXII.**

Throughout these 8 years, a common challenge in the UPR process has been the follow-up and implementation phase. This is true for every human rights topic that UPR recommendations have addressed and SOGIESC issues are no exception. There is currently no formal process set up to consistently measure the level of implementation in the states under review. This is an apparent gap that needs to be filled. Furthermore, the UPR plays a key role in disseminating information on good practices and implementation measures in order to foster a ripple effect. To date, much of the information on positive steps taken is not available.

In our survey launched this year, ILGA, IBAHRI and ARC asked civil society representatives to share information about the level of follow-up and implementation in their countries. Only twenty-three per cent of the respondents reported that their country has a follow-up mechanism in place. Of those, two-thirds were involved in this mechanism in some way, which we found very positive.

Faced with the lack of an effective follow-up mechanism at state level, in some cases civil society or NHRIs have taken on the role to monitor implementation. Fourteen per cent of the respondents stated that they created a follow-up mechanism themselves. For instance, the Fiji civil society coalition has developed a monitoring matrix that facilitates their joint work in the follow-up and implementation phase.

Overall, the research revealed that the overwhelming majority (89%) of respondents do some form of follow-up and implementation work. Civil society has been engaging with their respective governments, to ensure that they are aware of SOGIESC issues and know what steps they need to take. Civil society reported having regular meetings with other NGOs, the NHRI, or their governments to discuss the country's UPR recommendations; having written a mid-term report of worked with OHCHR.

We commend civil society, states under review, and recommending states on their ongoing work on implementation, but encourage them for further strengthening their efforts.

Mr. President

The end of the second cycle is an opportunity to strengthen the UPR. Although our research focused on SOGIESC issues at the UPR, we would like to share our recommendations as we believe they apply to how we focus on all human rights, even those related to concepts that states may find more challenging, such as SOGIESC:

states under review:

- To implement all recommendations by making them a part of the human rights action plan and/or human rights public policy.
- To monitor all issues in the country and ensure that implementation is carried out in close consultation and with the active participation of civil society, including key stakeholders such as legal and health professionals.

to recommending states:

- To follow up recommendations made with your local embassies.

Mr. President

Let's remember that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and commit ourselves once again to fight with and for, those who are so often silenced.

Finally we would like to kindly reiterate our invitation **to the side event where more detailed results of ILGA, IBAHRI and ARC's research will be shared - today at 14:30 in room XXII.**

I thank you Mr. President,