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Annual Thematic Panel Discussion on Technical Cooperation in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Statement by the International Lesbian and Gay Association

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

Delivered by Diana Carolina Prado Mosquera

Thank you, Mr. President.

This statement is delivered in consultation with APCOM, Egale, the Pacific Sexual and Gender Diversity Network, Stonewall and Swedish Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights.

The human rights and development frameworks are mutually reinforcing; when one framework is neglected, so is the other. If lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons are denied their human rights, they are “left behind” and denied the promises of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. It is therefore paramount that technical cooperation is used to ensure a coherent and inclusive implementation of the SDGs that also benefits and fully includes LGBTI populations.

We call on States to utilise the LGBTI recommendations of human rights monitoring bodies and mechanisms in developing strategies to implement the SDGs. The recommendations of Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review are built on human rights expertise and often provide clear actions or pathways to improve the situation for LGBTI persons. The vast majority correlate to the specific goals or targets of the SDGs.

We also call on States, as well as National Human Rights Institutions and National Statistical Offices, to take a human rights-based approach and cooperate with LGBTI civil society when sourcing data to monitor the implementation of the SDGs and support the achievement of the “leave no one behind” objective. This approach means closely collaborating with LGBTI persons in data planning, collection, dissemination and analysis in order to ensure their full privacy and safety. It also requires data disaggregation, following the guidance of LGBTI civil society, to capture the intersectional identities and lived realities of *all* LGBTI individuals.

We finally urge States to use the opportunity of Voluntary National Reviews to share their best practices with regards to technical cooperation in their implementation of the SDGs that benefits and fully includes LGBTI populations in their respective countries. We commend Canada, Costa Rica, Kiribati and Mexico for holding workshops and other consultations with LGBTI groups in the implementation of the SDGs, as outlined in their VNRs. We urge other states to follow these examples and work directly with LGBTI populations and organisations in the implementation of the SDGs.

The SDGs vow to “leave no one behind”, and this includes LGBTI persons. Our question to the panel is: What strategies can the panel share to ensure that LGBTI persons enjoy the promises of the 2030 Agenda?

I thank you, Mr. President.