



54th Human Rights Council session

20 September 2023, 10:00hr

ITEM 3 – Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development

Statement by International Lesbian and Gay Association

Delivered by Jose Guillermo Ricalde Perez

Dear Mr. President,

We celebrate the report by the Special Rapporteur and its commitment to intersectionality as a key pillar to reinvigorating the right to development, acknowledging inequalities and overcoming patriarchal norms as a major ongoing challenge in the development framework. We also welcome the Special Rapporteur's call to protect LGBTI+ persons from discrimination under the right to development and through an intersectional gender perspective.

We agree with the Special Rapporteur's assertion that rights holders are not homogenous and that individuals face multiple intersecting layers of discrimination. To achieve an intersectional approach, the mandate must take into consideration all populations, including diverse sexual and gender minorities.

The economic, social, cultural, and political aspects of the right to development should also be intersectional. To achieve this, women and LGBTI people must be given an active role in decision-making processes and opportunities to share their lived experiences and perspectives on development.

The Special Rapporteur has a key role in overcoming the patriarchal economic systems that continue to disadvantage all those facing barriers and discrimination based on their gender and/or their SOGIESC, and who have fewer economic opportunities, and are more likely to live in poverty.¹ The mandate can also influence the debates regarding the concept of gender equality that has suffered polarisation in mechanisms such as

¹ Funders for LGBTQ Issues. (2018). *Economic Opportunity – Funders for LGBT Issues*. [lgbtfunders.org](https://lgbtfunders.org/resources/issues/economic-opportunity/).
<https://lgbtfunders.org/resources/issues/economic-opportunity/>; Wilson, B.D.M., Bouton, L.J.A., Badgett, M.V.L., & Macklin, M.L. (2023). *LGBT Poverty in the US: Trends at the Onset of COVID-19*. Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law

the draft convention on the Right to Development and the Agenda 2030² to ensure a holistic approach in the implementation of an intersectional gender perspective.

We encourage the Special Rapporteur to reinforce their plans to guarantee the inclusion of gender equality and hold up consultations with LGBTI and feminists groups. These voices are crucial to the successful reinvigoration of the right to development.

We ask the Special Rapporteur:

- What practical next steps will you take to integrate an 'intersectional gender perspective' to the right to development?
- And how do you plan to respond to the opposition to gender equality recently present within the development framework?

We thank you Mr President.

² Haley McEwen and Lata Narayanaswamy, "The International Anti-Gender Movement: Understanding the Rise of Anti-Gender Discourses in the Context of Development, Human Rights and Social Protection": Working Paper 2023-06 (UNRISD, May 2023): <https://cdn.unrisd.org/assets/library/papers/pdf-files/2023/wp-2023-4-anti-gender-movement.pdf>. See also the 24th [session of the Expert Draft Mechanism of the Convention of the Right to Development](#). Particularly comments and suggestions on elimination of the term "gender equality" and the word "all" before sentences related to women.