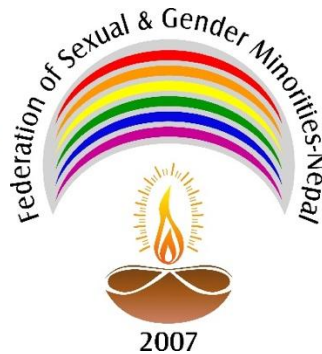




Mr. President,

This statement is delivered in consultation with Blue Diamond Society and the Federation of Sexual and Gender Minorities Nepal, civil society organizations working on LGBTI rights in Nepal.

We welcome the renaming of the Ministry as the Ministry of Women, Children, Gender and Sexual Minorities, and Social Protection, reflecting increased recognition of LGBTI people within government structures. We also welcome efforts to integrate their rights into policies, programmes, development planning and legal reform.

We commend the 10 Member States that made 11 recommendations concerning the rights of LGBTI people. We appreciate Nepal's support for recommendations on implementing court decisions protecting LGBTI persons, adopting an intersectional approach to discrimination, and ensuring equitable access to sexual and reproductive health services for all.

At the same time, we are concerned that Nepal noted key recommendations on comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, prohibition of conversion therapy, citizenship based on self-determination, and marriage equality. This is particularly concerning given Nepal's constitutional guarantees of equality, landmark Supreme Court jurisprudence, and the recent Supreme Court judgment affirming equal marriage rights for same-sex couples.

Full implementation of these recommendations would strengthen Nepal's regional leadership and help ensure that legal recognition translates into practical protection, dignity and equality for affected communities.

We therefore encourage the Government of Nepal to continue constructive engagement with civil society and affected communities, and to take concrete steps toward legal and policy reforms that guarantee equal rights and protection for all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or sex characteristics.

Thank you.