



## **LGBTI Stakeholder Group Inputs to Draft Elements Paper on the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit**

*Focal Point: Luíza Drummond Veado, Senior Program Officer, UN Program, Outright International, [lveado@outrightinternational.org](mailto:lveado@outrightinternational.org)*

The LGBTI Stakeholder Group presents its inputs to the draft elements paper on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Summit 2023 Political Declaration. This is an important year, representing the halfway point of the SDG commitments and an opportunity to highlight and include both the advances and the barriers in the inclusion of populations that are being left behind, including LGBTI populations, in the development framework.

Human rights should be the core of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development implementation, follow-up, and review, without which it is impossible to achieve systemic change. If we want to accelerate our pandemic recovery and achieve the Agenda 2030 in time, it is vital that the Political Declaration is based on existing international human rights standards and the obligations that derive from it.

As stated in 2022's Ministerial Declaration, "the systemic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda remains crucial,"<sup>1</sup> due to the ways persistent cis-heteronormative and patriarchal structures, practices, and harmful gender norms preclude many from full and equal enjoyment of the benefits of sustainable development. Therefore a gender-transformative approach is the only way to ensure no one is left behind in the world's pursuit of the SDGs.

Additionally, there is a need for all UN processes to be connected and to guarantee the effective participation of all actors, including LGBTI populations, organizations, and defenders. Correspondingly, civil society organizations (CSOs)—especially Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGoS), including the LGBTI Stakeholder Group—must be effectively involved in SDG review and implementation at all levels. This MGoS engagement is mandated in General Assembly Resolution 67/290 of 9 July 2013 which established the HLPF, particularly with

---

<sup>1</sup> Economic and Social Council, *Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, on the theme "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,"* E/HLS/2022/1 para. 38 (15 August 2022), available from <https://www.undocs.org/en/E/HLS/2022/1>,

reference to paragraphs 8c, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22, and 24 regarding active involvement of MGoS in all activities pertaining to the HLPF at all levels.

Participation of MGoS and CSOs must be mentioned in the SDG Summit's Political Declaration with recognition that we are key actors in the implementation and acceleration of the 2030 Agenda and serve as a bridge to those who are furthest left behind.

The following three sections will present our concrete recommendations and suggested language—drawn from previously agreed UN language—for each of the three headings of the draft elements paper.

## **Our Shared Resolve**

### *Recommendations*

- Commit to upholding the UN Charter and international law, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and international human rights treaties.
- Emphasize the non-discrimination approach and the realization of fundamental freedoms through a human rights based approach to achieving the SDGs.
- Commit to mainstreaming a gender perspective in the implementation of all SDGs to ensure the benefits of development and gender equality are enjoyed by all, including LGBTI populations.
- Commit to reversing the harmful trends of deepening inequality and increasing marginalization of LGBTI communities, which were compounded by the pandemic, by ensuring the immediate acceleration of SDG implementation and including LGBTI populations in all development frameworks.
- Reaffirm the commitment made by the General Assembly in Resolution A/RES/70/1, which established the 2030 Agenda, to leave no one behind. Reinforce efforts reaffirmed by the 2022 HLPF Ministerial Declaration to reach those who were left furthest behind by the pandemic, and recognize the need to include LGBTI populations in these efforts.
- Commit to ensuring the participation of MGoS and diverse CSOs, including those serving LGBTI groups, in all UN sustainable development processes.
- Commit to maintaining the agreed language and to step up efforts to combat all forms of discrimination, xenophobia, intolerance, stigmatization, violence, and hate speech through cooperation, partnership, inclusion, and respect for diversity.

- Ensure any listings of vulnerable populations remain open for improvement by either recognizing LGBTI populations explicitly or acknowledging the discrimination and barriers to accessing development faced by numerous vulnerable groups.

### *Suggested Language*

- HLPF Ministerial Declaration 2022

38. [...] National and international efforts for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 must be gender-responsive and promote and ensure women's full, equal, meaningful participation and leadership at all levels. We will ensure full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all women and girls, throughout their life course, without discrimination of any kind. **The systemic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda remains crucial.**<sup>2</sup>

### **Our Changed World**

#### *Recommendations*

- Recognize that LGBTI populations faced barriers to participating in development before the pandemic, and that the crisis compounded exclusion by deepening existing inequalities and increasing barriers to accessing education, employment, and healthcare, among other rights and services.
- Acknowledge that LGBTI populations are disproportionately impacted by the growing number of crises in recent years, and are often excluded from humanitarian responses.
- Take note of the increased levels of hate speech and violence against LGBTI persons, both online and offline, undermining achievement of all SDGs, including those being reviewed this year.
- Acknowledge the root causes and need to tackle systemic forms of oppression that are driving gender inequality, including patriarchy, and harmful gender stereotypes, roles, and norms.
- Call for the repeal of punitive laws that impact the progress of sustainable development, including all those that restrict rights to bodily autonomy, freedom of expression, and access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

---

<sup>2</sup> Economic and Social Council, *Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, on the theme "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,"* E/HLS/2022/1 para. 38 (15 August 2022), available from <https://www.undocs.org/en/E/HLS/2022/1>

## Turning our World Towards 2030

### *Recommendations*

- Align to the human rights framework, particularly recent jurisprudence and recommendations produced by the international human rights bodies, including the ones related to LGBTI populations' rights.
- Safely and properly collect data disaggregated by sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics. Use disaggregated data to guide development policies and programs, including SDG implementation, and ensure efforts include LGBTI people. Through partnerships, work to increase the capacity of states to collect disaggregated data.
- Include LGBTI populations in all efforts to achieve gender equality, guaranteeing they also benefit from initiatives to counter patriarchal systems and gender stereotypes that disproportionately harm LGBTI people.
- Take into account the ways LGBTI people are uniquely and disproportionately impacted by humanitarian disasters, and work to ensure LGBTI people are able to fully and equally access aid provided in humanitarian responses.
- Incorporate the voices of LGBTI people in all peace efforts, taking into account the particular ways LGBTI communities are targeted in conflict and ensuring they are equally able to enjoy the benefits of peace, justice, and security.

### *Suggested language*

- HLPF Ministerial Declaration 2022

133. We commit to stepping up our efforts to fight against racism, **all forms of discrimination**, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, hate speech, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion and respect for diversity. **We call to take measures to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all**, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>3</sup> Economic and Social Council, *Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Council, on the theme "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,"* E/HLS/2022/1 para. 133 (15 August 2022), available from <https://www.undocs.org/en/E/HLS/2022/1>

- UNGA 76/176

7. (...) and calls upon States to take measures to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that discriminate, directly or indirectly, against citizens in their right to participate in public affairs, **including based on race, colour, ethnicity, national or social origin, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, language, religion, political views or on the basis of disability**;<sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 76/176, *Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections*, A/RES/76/176 para. 7 (11 January 2022), available from <https://www.undocs.org/en/A/RES/76/176>