

Thank you Mr President,

This statement is made on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative¹.

We welcome the government's willingness to engage in the UPR process and its acceptance of recommendations to carry out follow-up work on the UPR outcomes that allow verification of the implementation and impact of norms and measures that are adopted to promote equal rights and non-discrimination for all citizens, particularly vulnerable groups such as women, children, ethnic minorities and LGBT communities, among others.

However, the Mexican government must note that gender stereotypes are still very strong in Mexico and are a significant obstacle to the realization of women's and LGBT persons human rights and sexual and reproductive rights.

We appreciate the government's attempts to create legal provisions to protect against discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation and sexual identity. However, we are deeply concerned that measures adopted to eliminate gender-based discrimination and violence do not recognize the concept of gender identity; consequently these measures do not protect persons from discrimination on these grounds.

Violence against transgender people remains high and systematic in many instances, at institutional levels such as within educational, health and legal systems as well as at domestic and social levels. And there remains significant evidence that violations of LGBT people's human rights remain in Mexican society.

We urge the Mexican government to address this issue by adopting and implementing federal laws and policies that will eliminate discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in all 32 states of Mexico.

I thank you.

¹ The Sexual Rights Initiative is a coalition of organizations including: Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD), Akahata (Argentina), Coalition of African Lesbians (South Africa), CREA (India), Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (Egypt) and Federation for Women and Family Planning (Poland).