

## LGBTI Stakeholder Group

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# **LGBTI Stakeholder Group’s Revised Zero Draft of the Political Declaration to be adopted at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023**

## **General Comments and Overview**

The LGBTI Stakeholder Group believes the current text streamlines a lot of important issues in the mark of the halfway through the Agenda 2030. We believe there is a strong need to center civil society and those who are implementing the SDGs on the ground as important actors in achieving the Agenda 2030, including the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders.

In the following document, we have compiled all paragraphs including pieces of text we think should be deleted, edited, or highlighted.

Topics covered include, but are not limited to:

### Population listings

- Population listings are never exhaustive and inclusive enough, consequently, many groups are left out and this provides for grounds of discrimination. We recommend that there not be any listings, and should there be a listing that the listing remains open, with the inclusion of language such as “including others”, “including other groups”, “including other populations”.
- There is agreed language on listings on including gender-disaggregated data from the SDGs indicators; and the inclusion of those who suffer violence and discrimination due to their sexual orientation and gender identity is agreed language from A/RES/76/176: Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections.

### Language around gender-based violence

- The SDGs are based on language around gender-based violence, specifically in Goal 5 as well as interlinked throughout all other SDGs. It is recognized that violence perpetrated against women, girls, LGBTI, and other persons, especially if they face multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, is often linked to gender issues. Harmful gender roles, norms, and stereotypes perpetuate violence and discrimination against all persons, especially those who do not conform. The term “gender-based violence” should always be used instead of “violence against women and girls” when there is a necessity to use the latter, it is important to include

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“all women and girls” as well as “women and girls in all their diversity” to ensure that the language is inclusive of all people who face gender-based violence.

### The recognition of multiple and intersecting forms of violence

- Communities are furthest left behind when they face “multiple and intersecting forms of violence” and their needs are not met in political and programmatic solutions in sustainable development. As such there is vast importance to recognize the “multiple and intersecting forms of violence” that communities face and how they exacerbate vulnerabilities and risks.

### The role of Major Groups and Other Stakeholders

- Major Groups and Other Stakeholders have been an integral part of sustainable development and are mentioned in countless resolutions as key stakeholders and drivers of implementation. The MGOS should be, as was also mentioned in the 2030 Agenda resolution, mentioned specifically as stakeholders separate from civil society at large.

## Concrete language

The following instructions have been followed: the text was struck through language we want to delete; highlighted in green through language we want to see retained; Bold, underlined, and highlighted in yellow for new language proposals.

### I. Our shared commitment

4. (...) We reaffirm that the 2030 Agenda and its Goals seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of ~~all~~ women and girls **in all their diversity**.
12. We remain resolved, between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger everywhere; to combat **inequalities within and among countries; to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies; to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and achieve gender equality** and the empowerment of **everyone, including all women and girls, individuals with disabilities, LGBTQI+ persons, indigenous persons and members of other marginalized groups; to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence** ~~all women and girls~~ and to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources (...).
13. We reaffirm that gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls **in all their diversity** will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Goals and targets (...).
14. **We commit to stepping up our efforts to fight against racism, all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, hate speech at all levels, through cooperation, partnership and inclusion and respect for diversity.**

Para 133 from HLPF Ministerial Declaration of 2022

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15. We reaffirm our resolve to realize our vision of a world with access to inclusive and equitable quality education, universal health coverage, quality health care **services, including for sexual and reproductive health, family planning, information and education**, social protection, food security and improved nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, affordable, reliable and sustainable energy and quality and resilient infrastructure for all.
20. We commit to enhancing global, regional, national and local partnerships for sustainable development, engaging all relevant stakeholders **in a meaningful way**, including local and regional governments, parliamentarians, Indigenous Peoples, research institutes, children, civil society, the private sector, academia, women, youth, local communities, persons of African descent, persons with disabilities, **LGBTI persons** and older persons, recognizing the important contribution they can make to the 2030 Agenda.

### II. Our changed world - Progress and remaining gaps and challenges

24. **We acknowledge that the cascading global crises have highlighted and exacerbated existing gender inequality, such as unequal access to healthcare, education and economic opportunities.**
30. We note that there has been positive progress in a limited number of areas. We recognize the efforts of countries and stakeholders, **including civil society** at all levels since 2015 to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (...).

### III. Call to action – turning our world towards 2030

36. We commit to achieving sustainable development and shared prosperity for all by focusing our policies and actions on the poorest and **those who suffer multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination** most vulnerable. **We will commit** ~~endeavour~~ **to identify those who are being left behind and reach those who are the furthest behind first.** People who are in vulnerable situations must be protected and empowered. Those whose needs are reflected in the 2030 Agenda include children, youth, women and girls, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, Indigenous Peoples, ethnic and racial minorities, refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants, **and those who are discriminated against based on race, colour, ethnicity, national or social origin, sex, sex characteristics, sexual orientation and gender identity, language, religion, political views or on the basis of disability.** (...) We will take action to combat inequalities within and among countries and pursue policies that stem the tide of rising inequality, including through **gender-transformative** social protection systems and universal health coverage (...).

A/RES/76/176 paragraph 7 <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3954961?ln=en>

37. We are determined to make all efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by the target year of 2030. To this end, we commit to:
  - a) We commit to targeted and accelerated action to remove all legal, social, and economic barriers to achieving gender equality, the empowerment of all women and girls, including those with disabilities, and the realization and enjoyment of their human rights and in this regard we commit to eliminating, preventing and responding to all forms of **sexual and gender-based violence** ~~against women and girls~~ in public and private spaces both in person and in digital contexts, ~~such as sexual and gender-based violence~~, and call for

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women's full access to justice and effective legal remedies. **Recognising that the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence, including harmful practices, is a prerequisite to achieving gender equality, health and wellbeing, quality education and peaceful societies, we commit to scaling-up proven approaches to stop violence before it starts.**

- b) We will continue increasing investment in inclusive and equitable quality education and life-long learning opportunities for all, including early childhood education, youth and adult literacy programmes and initiatives, digital education, education for sustainable development, **comprehensive sexuality education**, digital technologies for education, skills enhancement, affordable higher education and vocational training, including education in emergencies and teachers' continuing professional development (...).
- p) (...) We will continue to strengthen our efforts to collect, analyse and disseminate relevant and reliable data, **disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographical location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, for better monitoring and policymaking to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda** (...).

This language suggested is verbatim target 17.18 of the SDGs

- vii. We note the importance of the international financial architecture, business models, **and financing capacities, and MDB social and environmental safeguards** being more fit for purpose, equitable and responsive to the financing needs of developing countries, resilient and sustainable, to broaden and strengthen the voice and participation of developing countries **and marginalized communities** in international economic decision-making, norm-setting, and global economic governance. (...)

African Dev Bank has included SOGI in its [updated safeguards](#). Asian Dev Bank has rolled out several community consultations throughout 2022 re: robust safeguards.