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CONCEPT NOTE

**UN Security Council Arrria-Formula Meeting:
“Integrating the Human Rights of LGBTI persons into the Council’s Mandate for
Maintaining International Peace and Security”**

March 20, 2023, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.

UN Headquarters, ECOSOC Chamber

Live Stream on UN TV

Background

On March 20, the United States will hold an Arrria-Formula meeting to consider how to better integrate consideration of the human rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI) persons into the UN Security Council’s work.

In recent decades, the Council has increasingly recognized how human rights violations and abuses against marginalized communities – women and girls in all their diversity, persons with disabilities, members of ethnic and religious minority groups, Indigenous persons, youth, children, and others – can fuel conflicts, destabilize fragile societies, and aggravate threats to international peace and security. By understanding this connection, the Council has improved its ability to tackle root causes of conflict and mitigate the effects of war.

In 2015, the Security Council broke new ground by looking at the role of human rights abuses against LGBTI persons in the struggle against the terrorist group ISIS. This meeting occurred as UN bodies had increasingly begun to focus on discrimination and violence perpetrated against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Despite this increased awareness, we continue to see the repression of individuals based on their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and sex characteristics. In countries where rights have been hard-won, there has worrying regression or wholesale roll back of these rights. LGBTI people remain vulnerable in situations of armed conflict.

Yet over time the international community has learned lessons about how to incorporate the perspectives in LGBTI people in strategies to resolve conflict, build peace, and recover from war. The UN LGBTI Core Group – a cross-regional coalition of countries committed to LGBTI equality – has since expanded to 43 UN Member States and maintained international attention on this crucial agenda. In July 2022, the UN’s Independent Expert on Sexuality and Gender Identity issued a report to the General Assembly calling for greater awareness of how gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity dynamics figure into the context of armed conflict, and within peacebuilding and peacekeeping.

Objective of the Meeting

This meeting seeks to identify steps the UN Security Council can take to better incorporate respect for the human rights of LGBTI persons in carrying out its mandate to maintain international peace and security. International officials, including the UN's Independent Expert, will highlight key recommendations to the Council. Civil society briefers from Colombia and Afghanistan will put these recommendations into a specific context.

Security Council members and UN Member States are invited to propose ways the Security Council, UN Secretariat, UN Missions, and other UN organs, bodies and agencies can take to ensure better protection of LGBTI rights in situations of conflict, incorporate LGBTI perspectives in peacekeeping/peacebuilding, and establish mechanisms to protect members of the LGBTI community and create more resilient societies. Participants may wish consider in their interventions questions such as:

- 1) How can we increase awareness within UN field missions on the need to better integrate LGBTI rights into peacekeeping and peace building? How can the Security Council support this integration?
- 2) What can the Security Council do to increase protection for LGBTI persons who have unique needs and vulnerabilities in situations of armed conflict and fragile societies? What tools does the Security Council have to respond to reports of human rights violations and abuses against them?
- 3) How can we strengthen and build upon existing Security Council workstreams – such as UN Security Council resolution 2475 on the protection of persons with disabilities in conflict, Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC), and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) – to include LGBTI persons?
- 4) How can we practically expand the Woman, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda to promote cross-cutting intersectional identities, including those related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression?
- 5) How can the UN Secretariat and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSGs) improve and increase their reporting on LGBTI human rights, both in country-specific reports and in annual reports on Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV), WPS, YPS, CAAC?

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Briefers

UN and civil society briefers will be confirmed closer to the date.

Format

The meeting will be held on March 20, 2023, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the United Nations Headquarters in the ECOSOC Chamber. (TBC: The meeting will be broadcast on UN Web TV.) Interpretation will be provided in all official languages of the UN.

Security Council members are requested to limit remarks to three to five minutes only.

All Members States of the United Nations, as well as permanent observers and non-governmental organizations accredited to the UN, are invited to attend.

In order to subscribe for the list of speakers, or if you have further questions about this meeting, please email the U.S. Mission Political Expert Therese Postel (PostelTM@state.gov).