Interactive Dialogue with the
Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination
based on sexual orientation and gender identity

Third Committee, 25. October 2018

Draft German Statement

Mr. Chair,

Germany aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

We thank Mr. Victor Madrigal-Borloz for his excellent work and his newest report on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Sadly, discrimination continues to be a problem worldwide.

Germany considers the establishment of your mandate as a major achievement. We will therefore continue to support your important work. We commend your efforts to encourage states to promote respect of gender recognition as a component of identity. Abandoning the classification of certain forms of gender identities as a pathology is an important step on the way to improving the situation of LGBTI worldwide.

We still have a long way to go in our global struggle for equal rights for all, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Governments have an obligation to respect, protect and promote the human rights of all individuals, including LGBTI persons. We recently have seen encouraging developments in this direction, most recently the decriminalization in India and Trinidad and Tobago. However, one third of the world population continues to live in countries which criminalize LGBTI persons for who they are and whom they love.

Mr. Madrigal-Borloz,

Around the world, many civil society actors fight with courage and creativity for equal rights for everybody, regardless of their sexual orientation and gender identity. Sometimes they risk their lives. How can we best support and protect these human rights defenders?

Thank you.