Mr. President,

Spain wishes to initiate this intervention with a message of public thanks to Mr. Víctor Madrigal-Borloz for his personal and professional commitment in the fight against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. We also take this opportunity to ask him to take stock, even if preliminary, of this first year of mandate. We would like to know the challenges it faces and if the States can contribute in some way to facilitate the work.

We commend the wise decision of Mr. Madrigal-Borloz to focus his last report on the issue of gender identity and especially on the progress towards the depathologization of transgender identities. Within the LGBTI community, trans people suffer higher levels of violence and discrimination than the rest, and their unique problem remains a taboo subject in many societies.

With regard to the more specific issue of recognizing the gender identity of children, we note that the doctrine of the Committee on the Rights of the Child has been taken up in the report and we would like to know Mr. Madrigal-Borloz's opinion on the potential for a General Comment on the sexual orientation or gender identity of children.

Finally, I would not like to end without sharing with the audience the latest commitments of my country in the promotion and protection of equality and non-discrimination. In Spain, the high level of recognition and social acceptance is complemented by structural institutional support and very advanced legislation and guarantees of LGBTI rights. Among the most recent advances at the governmental level, the following stand out:

- the creation of a General Directorate for Equal Treatment and Diversity in a new Ministry, which makes "equality" one of its priorities: the Ministry of the Presidency, Relations with the Courts and Equality.

- the return of the right of access to assisted reproduction techniques, financed by the Spanish public health system, to lesbian or bisexual women.

- the declaration of June 28 as National LGBTI Pride Day.

- the presentation in Spain of the UN Principles of Conduct to deal with discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex persons (LGTBI) in the business world, barely a few weeks ago.

Thank you.