Mr. President,

My delegation would like to extend a warm welcome to the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, Mr. Victor Madrigal-Borloz, to the Third Committee, and to thank him for his informative briefing, as well as express gratitude for the recent Report presented and its recommendations.

Despite advances, LGBTI people continue to be victims of acts of violence, prejudice, discrimination and stigmatization throughout the world.

Therefore, it is necessary to redouble efforts and commitment to continue working intensely in the protection and defense of the rights of all people in an increasingly developed, just and inclusive society. Uruguay is, in that sense, firmly committed.

We must continue to raise awareness about the issue and the difficulties faced by the LGBTI community, which require the commitment of governments to ensure true equality of rights for all its citizens without any distinction.

Mr. Independent Expert: We consider that your report contains very relevant data and observations that would contribute as a guide for States on ways to deal with violence and discrimination based on gender identity.

We share his vision that in order to confront violence and discrimination based on gender identity, States must adopt the corresponding laws, policies and judicial decisions.

Regarding this point, you emphasize one of its recommendations so that States guarantee that the measures have an empirical basis, and that communities, as well as civil society organizations, participate in its design and implementation. We would like it if you could expand a little more on this observation.

At the same time, my delegation would like to ask you if you could share your experiences in recent visits and also what have been the challenges in fulfilling your mandate?

Finally, I reiterate my delegation's full support for his work.

Thank you.