

Statement on Uzbekistan

Mr. President,

Following recommendations 43 (a), 50 (b) we urge Uzbekistan to provide a friendly environment without state interference or fear of reprisal for NGOs working on the issues of sexual rights, women's rights, reproductive health and rights, and HIV/AIDS. We call on the Uzbek government to conduct proper investigation of NGO closures, punishing those responsible for unjustified closures and restoring their legal personhood to the organizations affected specifically crisis centers for women. We support the recommendation 88 (c) about inviting UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders to Uzbekistan and stress the importance to examining the situation of defenders working on women's rights and sexual and reproductive rights.

We commend Uzbek government for supporting recommendation 74 about securing women's rights. However, following recommendations 80 and 95 we would like to encourage the Uzbek government to address existing cultural stereotypes to transform traditional beliefs and practices that are discriminatory and/or harmful to women (CEDAW Convention, Article 5.a) especially in relation to their sexuality.

Following Uzbekistan's commitment to improving maternal and child health (para 100), we call on the Uzbek government to end all practices of forced sterilization and forced contraception and conduct investigations to find the public officers responsible for such practices and duly punish them.

Finally, we would like to request the Uzbek government to clarify its position on recommendation 79 (d). According to the Human Rights Committee criminalizing consensual same-sex behavior constitutes a violation of Article 2 of the ICCPR, which has been ratified by Uzbekistan. We would like to call on Uzbek government to repeal article 120 of Uzbek Criminal Code to de-criminalize consensual same-sex behaviour among adults.

We call on Uzbek government to conduct proper investigations on police blackmailing of the LGBT people, duly punishing those responsible and setting up administrative and legal frameworks to eradicate such practices and develop legislation to address family violence and hate crimes against LGBT people.

Thank you.