



Submission by ILGA world to Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana,
Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order on 'participation and decision-making in global governance spaces'

ILGA is responding to Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana's call for submissions, questions 1 and 2.

1. Please share your experience in exercising, or seeking to exercise, your right to participate in public affairs in one or several of the following global governance groupings/spaces: G7, G20, G77/G24, NAM, BRICS, WEF and BM in terms of:

- Access;
- Inclusivity; and
- Influencing the decision-making process.

Response: ILGA is the global umbrella organization for national and regional LGBTI organisations. We have more than 1500 members in more than 150 states.

ILGA is working in many global spaces such as UN spaces and mechanisms including HRC, TB, SP, UPR, CSW, UNHCR and interacts with other important actors and institutions on the global level such as the ILO, international sports associations and others. ILGA has so far not engaged in most of the global governance groupings/spaces in question (G7, G20, G77/G24, NAM, BRICS, and BM)

One exception is the WEF where we have interacted with the global head office in Geneva and have attended the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2017 at the invitation of business-connected non-profit groups seeking to ensure that LGBTI issues are protected within multinational corporations and their sphere of influence.

Other than in the WEF, where a few business and human rights-focussed NGOs have sought to advise and coordinate businesses in their engagement, ILGA is not aware of other LGBTI organisations who consistently interact with or engage in the main global governance spaces such as G7, G20, G77/G24 etc.

In order to inform this submission we have done some outreach to LGBTI organisations in regard to the engagement in such global governance spaces, however could not identify consistent engagement either.

We have received anecdotal evidence of G20 preparation meetings held in Germany in 2016 and 2017 in which an LGBTI activist raised LGBTI issues in the context of social protection, but LGBTI issues were considered "not a core issue". The same activist reported higher levels of hostility in the context of BRICS, as a consequence of the fact that the BRICS members are generally more hostile towards LGBTI issues.

At the WEF, we also know of occasional roundtable discussions attended by NGOs and by business leaders and supported by LGBTI-friendly government, but there is no systematic engagement to-date to our knowledge.

2. What were the main structural and/or practical obstacles you or your colleagues encountered when participating, or seeking to participate, prior to, during and after decision-making (for instance in terms of shaping the agenda of decision-making processes,

participation at an early stage when all options are still open, accreditation, physical and/or online access to forums, issuance of visas, availability of funds, access to information relevant to decision-making processes, etc.)?

Response: The lack of identifiable engagement of LGBTI organisations in global governance spaces suggest structural barriers that prevent LGBTI organisations and issues being recognized in these spaces. Those may include

- A lack of capacity among the LGBTI organisations for meaningful engagement
- A lack of entry points for LGBTI engagement in global governance spaces
- A lack of awareness of LGBTI issues in global governance spaces and as a consequence a low likelihood of impact following engagement
- A lack of trust in these institutions by human rights and social justice defenders, concerned that these institutions' very existence and approach is in conflict with their own values

In order to solidify these assumptions, further targeted research on LGBTI organisation's engagement is needed.