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**United Nations Human Right Council 12<sup>th</sup> Session  
Geneva, September 2009.  
UPR Central African Republic  
International Lesbian and Gay Association (European Region)**

Mr President,

I have the honour to present a statement on behalf of ILGA and Pan Africa ILGA.

We commend Central African Republic for its leadership, noted in the Working Group report, in supporting the joint statement on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity delivered at the UN General Assembly last December, on behalf of 67 States from all 5 UN regions. Amongst other things, this statement urges States to take all the necessary measures "to ensure that sexual orientation or gender identity may under no circumstances be the basis for criminal penalties".

In furtherance of this commitment, we are keen to find out what is the government's response to recommendation 16 in paragraph 75, which recommends a full review of all national legislation relating to the principles of non-discrimination, particularly as it applies to women and sexual minorities.

In this regard, we respectfully urge the Central African Republic to:

- a) To review its criminal legislation, particularly art. 195 of the Penal Code, to ensure that it does not discriminate on the ground of sexual orientation;
- b) To review all legislation to ensure no discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity;
- c) To take measures to recognise the sexual health and protect the rights of sexual minorities in accordance with international instruments.

We also welcome the support of the Central African Republic for recommendation 16 of para. 74 to ensure comprehensive training and education for all security forces and prison staff in human rights and international humanitarian law, and would encourage the government to include education about sexual orientation and gender identity issues within such training.

Finally, we appreciate the delegation's constructive engagement in the UPR process, and thank you again for your leadership on these important human rights issues.

Thank you very much Mr President.