

Human Rights Council – 34th session

**Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development
on Togo's Universal Periodic Review**



Thank you Mr. President,

Action Canada makes this statement on behalf of Afrique arc-en-Ciel and the Sexual Rights Initiative

We welcome the acceptance of recommendations on addressing violence against women, including domestic violence by the Togolese Government. However, we would like to voice our grave concern on the Government of Togo not accepting any of the recommendations on decriminalization based on same-sex adult consensual sexual relationships, given by 11 countries. Further is worrying that none of the recommendations on adopting measures to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights of LGBTI persons has been accepted by Togo.

Togo has ratified various UN treaties including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which addresses principles of non-discrimination and the right to privacy. During Togo's previous UPR in 2011, various recommendations had been made for Togo to align its laws and policies with international human rights standards. The Togolese Government failed to accept those recommendations and is continuing to blatantly violate the fundamental human rights of persons based on their sexual orientation and gender identity and expression.

In 2013 the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders conducted a follow-up visit to Togo and recommended a framework for safe working environment to human rights defenders working on the rights of LGBTI persons by amending relevant legislation.

Clearly, the Government of Togo does not see the upholding of rights of LGBTI persons as a priority, which is further reinstated by the large scale violence and discrimination on the community. We strongly call upon the Government of Togo to amend legislation in order to ensure that sexual orientation and gender identity and expression are included as prohibited grounds of discrimination and decriminalize same-sex adult consensual sexual relationships.

Thank you.