

St. John's, June 25, 2025

**Statement by the LGBTTTI+ Coalition – 55th OAS General Assembly
June 25–27, 2025, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda
“Building Resilient and Inclusive Economies in the Americas”**

Good morning, Mr. Secretary General and everyone present.

The most urgent and pressing issue for our hemisphere is the alarming deterioration of democratic guarantees in the region, and the concerning authoritarian trends shown by several governments, which foster polarization and violence and commit serious human rights violations.

We are particularly concerned about attacks and harassment against human rights defenders and journalists. We denounce the repression of protest and also persecutory laws, such as the one enacted in Peru, which hinders access to funding for civil society organizations and seeks to criminalize and obstruct their work.

It is necessary to implement equal opportunity frameworks in the countries of the region, in compliance with the principle of non-discrimination to which the OAS has committed itself.

To this end, States must eliminate the barriers that prevent LGBT people from accessing education, employment, professional training, housing, and social security. Access to healthcare—including mental health services—is further restricted by the defunding of public health systems. For trans people, all these barriers are compounded by the lack of legal recognition of their gender identity and the persistence of police and institutional violence against them.

We demand recognition of the contributions that migrant workers—including LGBT migrants—make to the economies of both host and origin countries. The Americas cannot be a territory of rejection and exclusion driven by xenophobia and racism.

A resilient and inclusive economy must place care at its center. LGBT people want public and inclusive care systems, and we want to provide care on equal terms. We need legislation that recognizes our families and the community bonds we create. In Panama, for example, the Supreme Court continues to uphold its decision not to approve civil marriage for same-sex couples. Furthermore, the Legislative Assembly has passed laws that go against the American Convention on Human Rights, such as the prohibition of adoption by same-sex couples. This situation is mirrored in other countries of the region.

LGBT people continue to face obstacles in accessing justice. Violence against us remains unpunished and, worse still, is being fueled by disinformation and hate speech—often disseminated by government officials. As a result, the rates of murder, beatings, torture, forced disappearances, rape, and suicide of LGBT people remain alarmingly high.

We are certain that it is impossible to build resilient and inclusive economies when democracy, multilateralism, and, consequently, the human rights of all people are being eroded and put at risk.

Thank you.