

AG/RES. 2653 (XLI-O/11)

HUMAN RIGHTS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND  
GENDER IDENTITY

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on June 7, 2011)

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT resolutions AG/RES. 2435 (XXXVIII-O/08), AG/RES. 2504 (XXXIX-O/09), and AG/RES. 2600 (XL-O/10), “Human Rights, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Identity”;

REITERATING:

That the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in that instrument, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, or other status; and

That the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man establishes that every human being has the right to life, liberty, and the security of his person without distinction as to race, sex, language, creed, or any other factor;

CONSIDERING that the Charter of the Organization of American States proclaims that the historic mission of the Americas is to offer to man a land of liberty and a favorable environment for the development of his personality and the realization of his just aspirations;

REAFFIRMING the principles of universality, indivisibility, and interdependence of human rights;

TAKING NOTE of the Declaration on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, presented to the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 2008; and

NOTING WITH CONCERN the acts of violence and related human rights violations as well as discrimination practiced against persons because of their sexual orientation and gender identity;

RESOLVES:

1. To condemn discrimination against persons by reason of their sexual orientation and gender identity, and to urge states, within the parameters of the legal institutions of their domestic systems, to adopt the necessary measures to prevent, punish, and eradicate such discrimination.

2. To condemn acts of violence and human rights violations committed against persons because of their sexual orientation and gender identity; and to urge states to prevent and investigate these acts and violations and to ensure due judicial protection for victims on an equal footing and that the perpetrators are brought to justice.

3. To encourage the member states to consider, within the parameters of the legal institutions of their domestic systems, adopting public policies against discrimination by reason of sexual orientation and gender identity.

4. To urge states to ensure adequate protection for human rights defenders who work on the issue of acts of violence, discrimination, and human rights violations committed against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

5. To request the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) to pay particular attention to its work plan titled "Rights of LGTBI People" and, in keeping with its established practice, to prepare a hemispheric study on the subject; and to urge member states to participate in the report.

6. To ask the IACHR and the Inter-American Juridical Committee each to prepare a study on the legal implications and conceptual and terminological developments as regards sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and to instruct the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs to include on its agenda the examination of the results of the requested studies, with the participation of interested civil society organizations, before the forty-second regular session of the General Assembly.

7. To request the Permanent Council to report to the General Assembly at its forty-second regular session on the implementation of this resolution. Execution of the activities herein shall be subject to the availability of financial resources in the program-budget of the Organization and other resources.