

Statement delivered by GIN-SSOGIE
51st session of the Human Rights Council
Items 3&5
Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples

This statement was prepared and delivered by André Muniz, an indigenous person of the Puri tribe in Brazil on behalf of GIN-SSOGIE.

Mr. President,

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's report on his visit to Costa Rica for calling attention to the exacerbated inequalities and poverty experienced by indigenous individuals with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities¹.

In Brazil, besides everything we already face as indigenous people, those of us who are also LGBTQIA+ must deal with homophobia and transphobia that, unfortunately, has been increasing in the past years. The historical evidence and the oral traditions show us that before the invasion of our lands, our cultures were very diverse and accepting of different ways of living and expressing our sexualities. However, that started to change with the imposition of the European Christian ways, and today, many face homophobia and transphobia in their own communities. This reality continues to grow, as Christian missionaries continue going into indigenous communities, sometimes presenting themselves as linguists or health agents.

Additionally, even indigenous people who do not face prejudice in their own communities encounter this terrible reality once they go out to the cities to study or work. For indigenous persons like me who were born in cities and have been distanced from the culture of our ancestors for a large part of our lives, this is something that we face from a very young age, just like the racism that sometimes even comes from within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Mr. President,

¹ Visit to Costa Rica – Report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, A/HRC/51/28/Add.1, 13 July 2022, para. 77.

We urge the Human Rights Council and this mandate holder to address the intersecting obstacles faced by indigenous persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities and discuss concrete measures that can be adopted by States to transform their current realities.

Thank you.