



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE

STATEMENT BY NORWAY ON A CONFERENCE IN OSLO 15-16 APRIL 2013 ON HUMAN RIGHTS, SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile to the Permanent Council,

Vienna 11 April 2013

Mr. Chairman,

In June 2011, under the leadership of South Africa, the UN Human Rights Council adopted resolution 17/19 – the first UN resolution on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity. The resolution was followed by a report from the High Commissioner for Human Rights that highlighted the responsibility of states to end violence and discriminatory laws against LGBTI people.

To ensure continued focus on this problem, South Africa, Norway, Brazil and other friends of the resolution decided to organize a series of regional seminars.

Next week, Norway, in cooperation with South Africa, will host an international conference on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity in Oslo. The conference will summarize the outcome of the regional seminars already held in Brazil, France and Nepal.

The conference will also identify gaps and implementation challenges from each region, and gather information on emerging policy responses and good practices. The findings will be outlined in the Co-Chair's Summary, which will also set out recommendations on the way forward and possible mechanisms to advance the issue more systematically in the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Mr. Chairman, we are convinced that the LGBTI conference in Oslo next week, and its outcome, will be of great relevance to the OSCE as well, as in input to our joint commitment to combat all forms of discrimination.

Thank you.