

## **SESSION 5: MAKING CITIES INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE: REGIONAL PRIORITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

### **LGBTQI Constituency Statement**

*Speaker: Viva Tatawaqa / DIVA for EQUALITY Fiji / Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism*

Civil society from Asia and the Pacific call for RESPECT for UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS - INCLUDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS of lesbians, bisexual people, trans people, queer and intersex people, and all sex and gender diverse people around the world.

If the global commitment to eradicate inequality for all people is truly our goal as stated in the Agenda 2030, then the implementation of the SDGs needs to take into account the human rights of all people who, because of their sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression (SOGIE), have historically been excluded from the benefits of development policies and programmes, and indeed, have often been targeted explicitly because of their actual and perceived sexuality.

We also express gravest concern at acts of violence and discrimination committed against individuals and organisations in our regions and elsewhere on the grounds of Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and expressions, by both state and non-state actors, and call for repeal of any specific and indirect laws, policies and practice that violate human rights, and including a call for specific protection and recognition of the work of human rights defenders and women human rights defenders in our region.

Our communities face stigma and discrimination, and this compounds the risk for contracting HIV and bar access to HIV, sexual and reproductive, and other health services.

We call for this Forum to increase work to eliminate violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, toward advancement of universal human rights and social justice, and toward an agenda for sustainable and development justice that is truly by, and for, everyone. Thank you.