

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

Date: 19 December 2016
AI Index Number: IOR 40/5135/2016

General Assembly upholds the authority of the Human Rights Council and its efforts to fight violence and discrimination against LGBTI individuals

Amnesty International applauds UN Member States for upholding the Human Rights Council's authority and competence to create a special procedures mandate to fight violence and discrimination against individuals based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Today, the UN General Assembly's plenary voted against an amendment introduced by Burkina Faso, to the resolution on the report of the Human Rights Council which sought to defer consideration of Council [resolution 32/2](#) on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity which, inter alia, establishes an Independent Expert on these issues. Today's positive vote sends a strong message of support to the Human Rights Council and the mandate of the Independent Expert.

The right to be free from violence and discrimination on any ground is well established in international human rights law. Amnesty International trusts that the General Assembly's vote will end the efforts by some States to obstruct the functioning of the mandate, so that Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn, appointed by the Human Rights Council at its thirty-third session as the mandate holder can continue with his crucial work. The Organization urges all UN Member States to cooperate fully with the mandate holder in his efforts to eliminate the unacceptable violence and discrimination individuals face on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

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