

ANNUAL DISCUSSION ON INTEGRATION OF A GENDER PERSPECTIVE
27th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council
Statement by Action Canada for Population and Development
15th September 2014

Thank you, Mr. President and Mme. Moderator.

This statement is supported by the Sexual Rights Initiative.¹

We welcome the panel's focus on gender integration in the country-focused work of the Council. The Council must do more to utilise an intersectional lens and integrate a gender perspective in all its country-based work, including country-specific resolutions. This includes expanding and deepening its focus on issues such as safe and legal abortion, contraception, maternal mortality and morbidity, adolescent sexuality, comprehensive sexuality education, sex workers' rights, sexual and gender diversity, bodily autonomy, and sexual violence, including marital rape. Gender integration also means that the Council and States pay attention to the specific gendered impacts on each and every thematic area of work, and take specific steps and measures to address these gender impacts.

The Council must ensure gender justice and diversity in the selection of country-specific special procedures and members of commissions of inquiry. It must also ensure that selected individuals have experience and expertise on a range of issues related to gender equality, gender-based violence and sexual rights, including reproductive rights.

In their engagement with the universal periodic review, States under review must integrate these issues in their national reporting, implementation and monitoring, and they must consult and collaborate with civil society, UN agencies and other actors working on these issues. For their part, reviewing States must raise questions and recommendations on the full spectrum of issues pertaining to gender equality and sexual rights, including reproductive rights.

It is critical that country-specific special procedures as well as commissions of inquiry utilise an intersectional and feminist lens as well as integrate into their work a focus on a range of issues, as mentioned before. Gender integration also involves strengthening consultation and collaboration with feminist groups and organizations working on women's rights and sexual rights, including reproductive rights.

Thank you.

¹ The Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI) is a coalition including: Action Canada for Population and Development (Canada); Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (Egypt); Federation for Women and Family Planning (Poland); Creating Resources for Empowerment and Action (India); Coalition of African Lesbians (Africa); Akahata Equipo de Trabajo en Sexualidades y Generos (Latin America) and others.