

**Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Based on Sexual
Orientation or Gender Identity**

**Adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly
resolution 136/121 of 28 June 2081**

Entry into force 17 May 2083, in accordance with Article 40

The States Parties to this Convention;

Considering that, in accordance with the principles proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Bearing in mind that the peoples of the United Nations have, in the Charter, reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights and in the dignity and worth of the human person, and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Noting that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the principle of the inadmissibility of discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, including distinction based on sexual orientation or gender identity,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for LGBT+ persons to be guaranteed their full enjoyment without discrimination,

Reaffirming the principles embodied in the basic instruments of the United Nations concerning human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Guided by the principles relating to equality between men and women, contained in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, as well as General Recommendation No.19 of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women on violence against women

Recalling the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Declaration of the Fourth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, and the Slavery Conventions,

Noting also the resolutions, declarations and recommendations adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies promoting equality of rights for LGBT+ persons,

Concerned, however, that despite these various instruments extensive discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity continues to exist,

Alarmed by manifestations of discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity still in continuity in multiple areas of the world and by governmental policies based on prejudice and hatred,

Recognizing that violence against LGBT+ persons is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between sexual identities, which have led to domination over, and discrimination against, LGBT+ persons and to the prevention of the full advancement of LGBT+ persons;

Concerned about the difficult conditions faced by LGBT+ persons who are subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination on the basis of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, indigenous or social origin, property, birth, age or other status,

Recognizing that LGBT+ children should have full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis of other children, and recalling obligations to that end undertaken by States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Emphasizing the need to incorporate a gender perspective in all efforts to promote the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by LGBT+ persons,

Highlighting the fact that the majority of LGBT+ persons live in conditions of poverty, and in this recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty on LGBT+ persons,

Bearing in mind that conditions of peace and security based on full respect for the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations and observance of applicable human rights instruments are indispensable for the full protection of LGBT+ persons, in particular during armed conflicts and foreign occupation,

Recalling that discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity, is an obstacle to the participation of LGBT+ persons, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries, hampers the growth of the prosperity of society and makes more difficult the full development of the potentialities of LGBT+ persons, in the service of their countries and of humanity,

Aware that a change in the traditional roles of sexual identities as well as the status of family in society needed to achieve full equality for LGBT+ persons,

Have agreed on the following:

PART I

Article 1 Purpose

The purpose of the present Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all LGBT+ persons, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.

Article 2 Definitions

For the purposes of the present Convention,

“Sexual orientation” shall mean a person’s status of sexual and/or romantic attraction towards another person, in relation to gender.

“Gender identity” shall mean a person’s perception of having a particular gender, which may or may not correspond with their assigned gender.

Abovementioned two paragraphs shall be open to include negative interpretation of the subject-matters of the terms, such as, but not limited to asexual or non-binary.

“LGBT+” shall mean the set of subjects of this Convention and abbreviation of the terms; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and other sexual orientations or gender identities such as, but not limited to intersex or pansexual.

"Discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity" shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by LGBT+ persons, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

Article 3 General principles

The principles of the present Convention shall be:

- (a) Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons;
- (b) Non-discrimination;
- (c) Full and effective participation and inclusion in society;
- (d) Respect for difference and acceptance of LGBT+ persons as part of human diversity and humanity;
- (e) Equality between men and women;
- (f) Respect for the evolving capacities of LGBT+ children and respect for the right of LGBT+ children to preserve their identities.

Article 4 General obligations

States Parties condemn discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in all its forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against LGBT+ persons and, to this end, undertake:

- (a) To embody the principle of the non-discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation if not yet

incorporated therein and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle;

(b) To adopt appropriate legislative and other measures, including sanctions where appropriate, prohibiting all discrimination against LGBT+ persons;

(c) To establish legal protection of the rights of LGBT+ persons on an equal basis with others and to ensure through competent national tribunals and other public institutions the effective protection of LGBT+ persons against any act of discrimination;

(d) To refrain from engaging in any act or practice of discrimination against LGBT+ persons and to ensure that public authorities and institutions shall act in conformity with this obligation;

(e) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against LGBT+ persons by any person, organization or enterprise;

(f) To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity;

(g) To repeal all national penal provisions which constitute discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Article 5 Equality and non-discrimination

1. States Parties recognize that all persons are equal before and under the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law.

2. States Parties shall prohibit all discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and guarantee to LGBT+ persons equal and effective legal protection against discrimination on all grounds.

3. Specific measures which are necessary to accelerate or achieve de facto equality of LGBT+ persons shall not be considered discrimination under the terms of the present Convention.

Article 6 Awareness-raising

1. States Parties undertake to adopt immediate, effective and appropriate measures:

(a) To raise awareness throughout society, including at the family level, regarding LGBT+ persons, and to foster respect for the rights and dignity of LGBT+ persons;

(b) To combat stereotypes, prejudices and harmful practices relating to LGBT+ persons, in all areas of life;

(c) To promote awareness of the capabilities and contributions of LGBT+ persons.

2. Measures to this end include:

(a) Initiating and maintaining effective public awareness campaigns designed:

(i) To nurture receptiveness to the rights of LGBT+ persons;

- (ii) To promote positive perceptions and greater social awareness towards LGBT+ persons;
- (iii) To promote recognition of the skills, merits and abilities of LGBT+ persons, and of their contributions to the workplace and the labour market;
- (b) Fostering at all levels of the education system, including in all children from an early age, an attitude of respect for the rights of LGBT+ persons;
- (c) Encouraging all organs of the media to portray LGBT+ persons in a manner consistent with the purpose of the present Convention;
- (d) Promoting awareness-training programmes regarding LGBT+ persons and the rights of LGBT+ persons.

PART II

Article 7 Right to life

States Parties reaffirm that every human being has the inherent right to life and shall take all necessary measures to ensure its effective enjoyment by LGBT+ persons on an equal basis with others.

Article 8 Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

1. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.
2. States Parties shall take all effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent LGBT+ persons, on an equal basis with others, from being subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
3. States Parties shall not remove, expel or extradite a person to any State where that person may face a well-founded fear of torture, persecution, or any other form of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Article 9 Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect LGBT+ persons, both within and outside the domestic sphere, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including their gender-based aspects.
2. Hate propaganda and incitement to violence shall be taken in conjunction with this Article.

3. States Parties shall also take all appropriate measures to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse by ensuring, inter alia, appropriate forms of gender- and age-sensitive assistance and support for LGBT+ persons and their inner circles, including through the provision of information and education on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse. States Parties shall ensure that protection services are gender-, age- and disability-sensitive.

4. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote the physical and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of LGBT+ persons who become victims of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment that fosters the health, welfare, self-respect, dignity and autonomy of the person and takes into account gender- and age-specific needs.

5. States Parties shall put in place effective legislation and policies, including women- and child-focused legislation and policies, to ensure that instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against LGBT+ persons are identified, investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted.

Article 10 Equal recognition before the law

1. States Parties reaffirm that LGBT+ persons have the right to recognition everywhere as persons before the law.

2. States Parties shall recognize that LGBT+ persons enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life.

3. States Parties take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to ensure the change of name and gender on official documents is obtained through accessible procedures that effectively guarantee full legal recognition of a person's gender identity, in all areas of life.

Article 11 Access to justice

1. States Parties shall ensure effective access to justice for LGBT+ persons on an equal basis with others, in order to facilitate their effective role as direct and indirect participants, including as witnesses, in all legal proceedings, including at investigative and other preliminary stages.

2. States Parties take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures to prohibit and eliminate prejudicial treatment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity at every stage of the judicial process, in civil and criminal proceedings and all other judicial and administrative proceedings which determine rights and obligations, and to ensure that no one's credibility or character as a party, witness, advocate or decision-maker is impugned by reason of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Article 12 Liberty and security of person

1. States Parties shall ensure that LGBT+ persons, on an equal basis with others:

(a) Enjoy the right to liberty and security of person;

(b) Are not deprived of their liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily, and that any deprivation of liberty is in conformity with the law, and that the LGBT+ identity of the person, shall in no case justify a deprivation of liberty.

2. States Parties shall ensure that if LGBT+ persons are deprived of their liberty through any process, they are, on an equal basis with others, entitled to guarantees in accordance with international human rights law and shall be treated in compliance with the objectives and principles of this Convention.

Article 13 Protecting the integrity of the person

1. States Parties recognize that every LGBT+ person has a right to respect to their physical and mental integrity on an equal basis with others.

2. States Parties shall ensure that no person shall be forced to undergo any form of medical or psychological treatment, procedure, testing, or be confined to a medical facility, based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Notwithstanding any classifications to the contrary, a person's sexual orientation or gender identity are not, in and of themselves, medical conditions and are not to be treated, cured or suppressed.

PART III

Article 14 Living independently and being included in the community

States Parties to this Convention recognize the equal right of all LGBT+ persons to live in the community, with choices equal to others, and shall take effective and appropriate measures to facilitate full enjoyment by LGBT+ persons of this right and their full inclusion and participation in the community, including by ensuring that:

(a) LGBT+ persons have the opportunity to choose their place of residence and where and with whom they live on an equal basis with others and are not obliged to live in a particular living arrangement;

(b) Community services and facilities for the general population are available on an equal basis to LGBT+ persons and are responsive to their needs.

Article 15 Freedom of opinion and expression

1. States Parties shall ensure effective enjoyment of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. This includes the expression of identity or personhood through speech, deportment, dress, bodily characteristics, choice of name, or any other means, as well as the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, including with regard to human rights, sexual orientation or gender identity, through any medium and regardless of frontiers.

2. States Parties shall ensure that notions of public order, public morality, public health and public security are not employed to restrict, in a discriminatory manner, any exercise of freedom of opinion and expression that affirms diverse sexual orientations or gender identities.

Article 16 Freedom of assembly and association

1. States Parties shall ensure effective enjoyment of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, including for the purposes of peaceful demonstrations, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. States Parties recognize that persons may form without discrimination, associations based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and associations that distribute information to or about, facilitate communication among, or advocate for the rights of LGBT+ persons.

2. States Parties shall ensure that notions of public order, public morality, public health and public security are not employed to restrict, in a discriminatory manner, any exercise of freedom of assembly and association that affirms diverse sexual orientations or gender identities.

Article 17 Respect for privacy

1. No LGBT+ persons, regardless of place of residence or living arrangements, shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, or correspondence or other types of communication or to unlawful attacks on their honour and reputation. This includes the choice to disclose or not to disclose information relating to one's sexual orientation or gender identity, as well as decisions and choices regarding both one's own body and consensual sexual and other relations with others. LGBT+ persons have the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

2. States Parties shall repeal all laws that criminalize consensual sexual activity among persons of the same sex who are over the age of consent, and shall ensure that an equal age of consent applies to both same-sex and different-sex sexual activity.

3. States Parties shall protect the privacy of personal information of LGBT+ persons on an equal basis with others.

Article 18 Right to found a family

1. States Parties recognize that every LGBT+ person has the right to found a family on an equal basis with others, and to this end, shall take all necessary legislative, administrative and other measures:

- a) To provide the effective enjoyment of the right to found a family, including through access to adoption or assisted procreation, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity;

b) To acknowledge the diversity of family forms by law and policies, including those not defined by descent or marriage, and that no family may be subjected to discrimination on the basis of the sexual orientation or gender identity of any of its members, including with regard to family-related social welfare and other public benefits, work and employment, and immigration;

c) To ensure that in States that recognize same-sex marriages or registered partnerships, any entitlement, privilege, obligation or benefit available to different-sex married or registered partners is equally available to same-sex married or registered partners;

d) To ensure that any obligation, entitlement, privilege or benefit available to different-sex unmarried partners is equally available to same-sex unmarried partners.

2. States Parties shall guarantee that in all actions or decisions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration, and that the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child or of any family member or other person shall not be considered incompatible with such best interests.

PART IV

Article 19 Education

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in order to ensure to LGBT+ persons equal rights with others in the field of education and in particular to ensure:

(a) The same conditions for career and vocational guidance, for access to studies and for the achievement of diplomas in educational establishments of all categories; this equality shall be ensured in pre-school, general, technical, professional and higher technical education, as well as in all types of vocational training;

(b) Access to the same curricula, the same examinations, teaching staff with qualifications of the same standard and school premises and equipment of the same quality;

(c) The elimination of any stereotyped concept of the roles of LGBT+ persons at all levels and in all forms of education by other types of education which will help to achieve this aim and, in particular, by the revision of textbooks and school programmes and the adaptation of teaching methods;

(d) The same opportunities to benefit from scholarships and other study grants;

(e) The same opportunities for access to programmes of continuing education, including adult and functional literacy programmes, particularly those aimed at reducing, at the earliest possible time, any gap in education existing between LGBT+ persons and others;

(f) The reduction of LGBT+ student drop-out rates and the organization of programmes for LGBT+ persons who have left school prematurely.

2. States Parties undertake to include educational content on sexuality and gender to their education programmes, without a discriminatory manner based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Article 20 Health

States Parties recognize that LGBT+ persons have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure access for LGBT+ persons to health services that are gender-sensitive. In particular, States Parties shall:

(a) Provide LGBT+ persons with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care and programmes as provided to other persons, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and population-based public health programmes;

(b) Provide those health services needed by LGBT+ persons specifically because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, including early identification of and intervention to the health problems as appropriate, and services designed to minimize and prevent further physical or mental harm, including among children and older persons;

(c) Provide and improve the means of accessibility to gender reassignment services;

(d) Provide these health services as close as possible to people's own communities;

(e) Require health professionals to provide care of the same quality to LGBT+ persons as to others, including on the basis of free and informed consent by, inter alia, raising awareness of the human rights, dignity, autonomy and needs of LGBT+ persons through training and the promulgation of ethical standards for public and private health care;

(f) Prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, in the provision of health insurance, and life insurance where such insurance is permitted by national law, which shall be provided in a fair and reasonable manner;

(g) Prevent discriminatory denial of health care or health services or food and fluids on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Article 21 Work and employment

1. States Parties recognize the right of LGBT+ persons to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to LGBT+ persons. States Parties shall safeguard and promote the realization of the right to work, by taking appropriate steps, including through legislation, to, inter alia:

(a) Prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity with regard to all matters concerning all forms of employment, including conditions of

recruitment, hiring and employment, continuance of employment, career advancement and safe and healthy working conditions;

(b) Protect the rights of LGBT+ persons, on an equal basis with others, to just and favourable conditions of work, including equal opportunities and equal remuneration for work of equal value, safe and healthy working conditions, including protection from harassment, and the redress of grievances;

(c) Ensure that LGBT+ persons are able to exercise their labour and trade union rights on an equal basis with others;

(d) Enable LGBT+ persons to have effective access to general technical and vocational guidance programmes, placement services and vocational and continuing training;

(e) Promote employment opportunities and career advancement for LGBT+ persons in the labour market, as well as assistance in finding, obtaining, maintaining and returning to employment;

(f) Promote opportunities for self-employment, entrepreneurship, the development of cooperatives and starting one's own business;

(g) Employ LGBT+ persons in the public sector;

(h) Promote the employment of LGBT+ persons in the private sector through appropriate policies and measures, which may include affirmative action programmes, incentives and other measures;

(i) Promote the acquisition by LGBT+ persons of work experience in the open labour market;

(j) Promote vocational and professional rehabilitation, job retention and return-to-work programmes for LGBT+ persons.

2. States Parties shall ensure that LGBT+ persons are not held in slavery or in servitude, and are protected, on an equal basis with others, from forced or compulsory labour.

Article 22 Adequate standard of living and social protection

1. States Parties recognize the right of LGBT+ persons to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

2. States Parties recognize the right of LGBT+ persons to social protection and to the enjoyment of that right without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right, including measures:

(a) To ensure equal access by LGBT+ persons to clean water services, and to ensure access to appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistance for gender-related needs;

- (b) To ensure access by LGBT+ persons, in particular transgender persons and older LGBT+ persons, to social protection programmes and poverty reduction programmes;
- (c) To ensure access by LGBT+ persons and their families living in situations of poverty to assistance from the States with gender-related expenses, including counselling, financial assistance and respite care;
- (d) To ensure access by LGBT+ persons to public housing programmes;
- (e) To ensure equal access by LGBT+ persons to retirement benefits and programmes.

Article 23 Participation in political and public life

States Parties shall guarantee to LGBT+ persons political rights and the opportunity to enjoy them on an equal basis with others, and shall undertake to:

- (a) Ensure that LGBT+ persons can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for LGBT+ persons to vote and be elected.
- (b) Promote actively an environment in which LGBT+ persons can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs, without discrimination and on an equal basis with others, and encourage their participation in public affairs, including:
 - (i) Participation in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country, and in the activities and administration of political parties;
 - (ii) Forming and joining organizations of LGBT+ persons to represent LGBT+ persons at international, national, regional and local levels.

Article 24 Participation in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport

1. States Parties recognize the LGBT+ persons to take part on an equal basis with others in cultural life, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that LGBT+ persons:

- (a) Enjoy access to cultural materials;
- (b) Enjoy access to television programmes, films, theatre and other cultural activities;
- (c) Enjoy access to places for cultural performances or services, such as theatres, museums, cinemas, libraries and tourism services, and, as far as possible, enjoy access to monuments and sites of national cultural importance.

2. States Parties shall take appropriate measures to enable and promote LGBT+ persons to have the opportunity to develop and utilize their creative, artistic and intellectual potential, not only for their own benefit, but also for the enrichment of society.

3. States Parties shall take all appropriate steps, in accordance with international law, to ensure that laws protecting intellectual property rights do not constitute an unreasonable or discriminatory barrier to access by LGBT+ persons to cultural materials.

4. LGBT+ persons shall be entitled, on an equal basis with others, to recognition and support of their specific cultural and linguistic identity.

5. With a view to enabling and promoting LGBT+ persons to participate on an equal basis with others in recreational, leisure and sporting activities, States Parties shall take appropriate measures:

(a) To encourage and promote the participation, to the fullest extent possible, of LGBT+ persons in mainstream sporting activities at all levels;

(c) To ensure that LGBT+ persons have access to sporting, recreational and tourism venues;

(d) To ensure that LGBT+ persons have equal access with other children to participation in play, recreation and leisure and sporting activities, including those activities in the school system;

(e) To ensure that LGBT+ persons have access to services from those involved in the organization of recreational, tourism, leisure and sporting activities.

PART V

Article 25 Statistics and data collection

1. States Parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention. The process of collecting and maintaining this information shall:

(a) Comply with legally established safeguards, including legislation on data protection, to ensure confidentiality and respect for the privacy of LGBT+ persons;

(b) Comply with internationally accepted norms to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and ethical principles in the collection and use of statistics.

2. The information collected in accordance with this article shall be disaggregated, as appropriate, and used to help assess the implementation of States Parties' obligations under the present Convention and to identify and address the barriers faced by LGBT+ persons in exercising their rights.

3. States Parties shall assume responsibility for the dissemination of these statistics and ensure their accessibility to LGBT+ persons and others.

Article 26 International cooperation

1. States Parties recognize the importance of international cooperation and its promotion, in support of national efforts for the realization of the purpose and objectives of the present Convention, and will undertake appropriate and effective measures in this regard, between and

among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of LGBT+ persons. Such measures could include, inter alia:

- (a) Ensuring that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to LGBT+ persons;
- (b) Facilitating and supporting capacity-building, including through the exchange and sharing of information, experiences, training programmes and best practices;
- (c) Facilitating cooperation in research and access to scientific and technical knowledge;
- (d) Providing, as appropriate, technical and economic assistance, including by facilitating access to and sharing of accessible and assistive technologies, and through the transfer of technologies.

2. The provisions of this article are without prejudice to the obligations of each State Party to fulfill its obligations under the present Convention.

Article 27 National implementation and monitoring

1. States Parties, in accordance with their system of organization, shall designate one or more focal points within government for matters relating to the implementation of the present Convention, and shall give due consideration to the establishment or designation of a coordination mechanism within government to facilitate related action in different sectors and at different levels.

2. States Parties shall, in accordance with their legal and administrative systems, maintain, strengthen, designate or establish within the State Party, a framework, including one or more independent mechanisms, as appropriate, to promote, protect and monitor implementation of the present Convention. When designating or establishing such a mechanism, States Parties shall take into account the principles relating to the status and functioning of national institutions for protection and promotion of human rights.

3. Civil society, in particular LGBT+ persons and their representative organizations, shall be involved and participate fully in the monitoring process.

Article 28 Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity

1. There shall be established a *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity* (hereafter referred to as "the Committee"), which shall carry out the functions hereinafter provided.

2. The Committee shall consist, at the time of entry into force of the present Convention, of twelve experts. After an additional sixty ratifications or accessions to the Convention, the

membership of the Committee shall increase by six members, attaining a maximum number of eighteen members.

3. The members of the Committee shall serve in their personal capacity and shall be of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field covered by the present Convention..

4. The members of the Committee shall be elected by States Parties, consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution, representation of the different forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and participation of LGBT+ experts.

5. The members of the Committee shall be elected by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by the States Parties from among their nationals at meetings of the Conference of States Parties. At those meetings, for which two thirds of States Parties shall constitute a quorum, the persons elected to the Committee shall be those who obtain the largest number of votes and an absolute majority of the votes of the representatives of States Parties present and voting.

6. The initial election shall be held no later than six months after the date of entry into force of the present Convention. At least four months before the date of each election, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall address a letter to the States Parties inviting them to submit the nominations within two months. The Secretary-General shall subsequently prepare a list in alphabetical order of all persons thus nominated, indicating the States Parties which have nominated them, and shall submit it to the States Parties to the present Convention.

7. The members of the Committee shall be elected for a term of four years. They shall be eligible for re-election once. However, the term of six of the members elected at the first election shall expire at the end of two years; immediately after the first election, the names of these six members shall be chosen by lot by the chairperson of the meeting referred to in paragraph 5 of this article.

8. The election of the six additional members of the Committee shall be held on the occasion of regular elections, in accordance with the relevant provisions of this article.

9. If a member of the Committee dies or resigns or declares that for any other cause she or he can no longer perform her or his duties, the State Party which nominated the member shall appoint another expert possessing the qualifications and meeting the requirements set out in the relevant provisions of this article, to serve for the remainder of the term.

10. The Committee shall establish its own rules of procedure.

11. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall provide the necessary staff and facilities for the effective performance of the functions of the Committee under the present Convention, and shall convene its initial meeting.

12. With the approval of the General Assembly, the members of the Committee established under the present Convention shall receive emoluments from United Nations resources on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may decide, having regard to the importance of the Committee's responsibilities.

13. The members of the Committee shall be entitled to the facilities, privileges and immunities of experts on mission for the United Nations as laid down in the relevant sections of the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

Article 29 Reports by States Parties

1. Each State Party shall submit to the Committee, through the Secretary-General of the United Nations, a comprehensive report on measures taken to give effect to its obligations under the present Convention and on the progress made in that regard, within two years after the entry into force of the present Convention for the State Party concerned.

2. Thereafter, States Parties shall submit subsequent reports at least every four years and further whenever the Committee so requests.

3. The Committee shall decide any guidelines applicable to the content of the reports.

4. A State Party which has submitted a comprehensive initial report to the Committee need not, in its subsequent reports, repeat information previously provided. When preparing reports to the Committee, States Parties are invited to consider doing so in an open and transparent process.

5. Reports may indicate factors and difficulties affecting the degree of fulfillment of obligations under the present Convention.

Article 30 Consideration of reports

1. Each report shall be considered by the Committee, which shall make such suggestions and general recommendations on the report as it may consider appropriate and shall forward these to the State Party concerned. The State Party may respond with any information it chooses to the Committee. The Committee may request further information from States Parties relevant to the implementation of the present Convention.

2. If a State Party is significantly overdue in the submission of a report, the Committee may notify the State Party concerned of the need to examine the implementation of the present Convention in that State Party, on the basis of reliable information available to the Committee, if the relevant report is not submitted within three months following the notification. The Committee shall invite the State Party concerned to participate in such examination. Should the State Party respond by submitting the relevant report, the provisions of paragraph 1 of this article will apply.

3. The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall make available the reports to all States Parties.

4. States Parties shall make their reports widely available to the public in their own countries and facilitate access to the suggestions and general recommendations relating to these reports.

5. The Committee shall transmit, as it may consider appropriate, to the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, and other competent bodies, reports from States Parties in order to address a request or indication of a need for technical advice or assistance contained therein, along with the Committee's observations and recommendations, if any, on these requests or indications.

Article 31 Cooperation between States Parties and the Committee

1. Each State Party shall cooperate with the Committee and assist its members in the fulfillment of their mandate.

2. In its relationship with States Parties, the Committee shall give due consideration to ways and means of enhancing national capacities for the implementation of the present Convention, including through international cooperation.

Article 32 Relationship of the Committee with other bodies

In order to foster the effective implementation of the present Convention and to encourage international cooperation in the field covered by the present Convention:

(a) The specialized agencies and other United Nations organs shall be entitled to be represented at the consideration of the implementation of such provisions of the present Convention as fall within the scope of their mandate. The Committee may invite the specialized agencies and other competent bodies as it may consider appropriate to provide expert advice on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their respective mandates. The Committee may invite specialized agencies and other United Nations organs to submit reports on the implementation of the Convention in areas falling within the scope of their activities;

(b) The Committee, as it discharges its mandate, shall consult, as appropriate, other relevant bodies instituted by international human rights treaties, with a view to ensuring the consistency of their respective reporting guidelines, suggestions and general recommendations, and avoiding duplication and overlap in the performance of their functions.

Article 33 Report of the Committee

The Committee shall report every two years to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council on its activities, and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States Parties. Such suggestions and general recommendations shall be included in the report of the Committee together with comments, if any, from States Parties.

Article 34 Conference of States Parties

1. The States Parties shall meet regularly in a Conference of States Parties in order to consider any matter with regard to the implementation of the present Convention.

2. No later than six months after the entry into force of the present Convention, the Conference of the States Parties shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The subsequent meetings shall be convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations biennially or upon the decision of the Conference of States Parties.

Article 35 Depositary

The Secretary-General of the United Nations shall be the depositary of the present Convention.

Article 36 Signature

The present Convention shall be open for signature by all States and by regional integration organizations at United Nations Headquarters in New York as of 28 June 2081.

Article 37 Consent to be bound

The present Convention shall be subject to ratification by signatory States and to formal confirmation by signatory regional integration organizations. It shall be open for accession by any State or regional integration organization which has not signed the Convention.

Article 38 Regional integration organizations

1. "Regional integration organization" shall mean an organization constituted by sovereign States of a given region, to which its member States have transferred competence in respect of matters governed by this Convention. Such organizations shall declare, in their instruments of formal confirmation or accession, the extent of their competence with respect to matters governed by this Convention. Subsequently, they shall inform the depositary of any substantial modification in the extent of their competence.

2. References to "States Parties" in the present Convention shall apply to such organizations within the limits of their competence.

3. Regional integration organizations, in matters within their competence, may exercise their right to vote in the Conference of States Parties, with a number of votes equal to the number of their member States that are Parties to this Convention. Such an organization shall not exercise its right to vote if any of its member States exercises its right, and vice versa.

Article 39 Entry into force

1. The present Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of the twentieth instrument of ratification or accession.
2. For each State or regional integration organization ratifying, formally confirming or acceding to the Convention after the deposit of the twentieth such instrument, the Convention shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its own such instrument.

Article 40 Reservations

1. Reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the present Convention shall not be permitted.
2. Reservations may be withdrawn at any time.

Article 41 Amendments

1. Any State Party may propose an amendment to the present Convention and submit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Secretary-General shall communicate any proposed amendments to States Parties, with a request to be notified whether they favour a conference of States Parties for the purpose of considering and deciding upon the proposals. In the event that, within four months from the date of such communication, at least one third of the States Parties favour such a conference, the Secretary-General shall convene the conference under the auspices of the United Nations. Any amendment adopted by a majority of two thirds of the States Parties present and voting shall be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly for approval and thereafter to all States Parties for acceptance.
2. An amendment adopted and approved in accordance with paragraph 1 of this article shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the number of instruments of acceptance deposited reaches two thirds of the number of States Parties at the date of adoption of the amendment. Thereafter, the amendment shall enter into force for any State Party on the thirtieth day following the deposit of its own instrument of acceptance. An amendment shall be binding only on those States Parties which have accepted it.

Article 42 Denunciation

A State Party may denounce the present Convention by written notification to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. The denunciation shall become effective one year after the date of receipt of the notification by the Secretary-General.

Article 43 Accessible format

The text of the present Convention shall be made available in accessible formats.

Article 44 Authentic texts

The Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish texts of the present Convention shall be equally authentic.

In witness thereof the undersigned plenipotentiaries, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.