

# Equal Rights Coalition

## Draft 2017-19 Program of Work

### Objectives:

The ERC's Foundational Principles affirm states' commitment to strengthening cooperation, coordination, and communication about efforts to advance the human rights of, and support inclusive development for, all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and sex characteristics. The Principles further elaborate that this work requires information sharing, engaging in open, respectful and constructive dialogue, and consulting closely with civil society.

Throughout their co-presidency, Canada and Chile will seek to advance these objectives by strengthening ERC member states' abilities to engage in effective diplomatic and development actions alongside civil society. They will also seek to pursue the following three high-level objectives with a view to solidifying the ERC's institutional foundations and scope: (1) above all, to advance issue-based work on countering violence and discrimination towards LGBTI persons, decriminalization of same-sex conduct, legal gender recognition, and other issues of importance to LGBTI communities; (2) to develop and strengthen the ERC's institutions; and (3) to expand ERC membership, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region.

Results will include coordinated public and private actions in response to human rights concerns as well as improved information-sharing and collaboration; expressions of support and encouragement in response to positive developments; improved coordination in multilateral settings outside of the United Nations; enhanced donor coordination in support of the human rights of LGBTI persons; LGBTI-related work mainstreamed through the Sustainable Development Goals; enhanced national laws, policies and programs in support of LGBTI human rights in ERC member countries.

### May – August 2017

- Circulate completed Terms of Reference & Explanatory Note to ERC membership
- Joint demarches to express concern with anti-LGBTI policies
- Joint demarches to recruit new ERC members
- Circulate the Draft Program of Work to ERC members for comments
- Review Thematic Groups' (TG) past work and launch TG membership recruitment drive (see annex at end of program)

### September – December 2017

- Continue information-sharing, joint demarches to recruit new members and to respond to anti-LGBTI policies, and continue communications in recognition of positive LGBTI policy developments
- Circulate completed Terms of Reference & Explanatory Note to ERC membership
- Sept. 20: UN LGBTI Core Group High Level Event
- Circulate Thematic Group co-chair draft terms of reference

- Oct. 18-19: Officials-level meeting of the ERC Coordinating Committee on the margins of the UNGA Third Committee (location: Canadian Permanent Mission to the UN, New York)
  - Finalized Program of Work to be approved
  - Administrative Unit, Executive Committee composition, and ERC membership expansion to be discussed
  - Thematic Group work plans to be presented by TG co-chairs
  - Discussions with civil society representatives
- Strengthen/elaborate on mechanisms to share information between states and with civil society
- Website and social media presence to be established, initially on Canada/Chile MFA websites, along with translation of foundational documents (Foundational Principles, Terms of Reference, Explanatory Note) in Spanish and French
- Thematic groups commence regular telephone/virtual communication; present work plans to co-chairs
- Possible creation of ad-hoc groups focused on particular topics (for example, focused on good practice) by ERC member states, civil society, and/or multilateral agencies.
- Executive Committee composition finalized

#### **January – April 2018**

- Continue information-sharing, joint demarches to recruit new members and to respond to anti-LGBTI policies, and continue communications in recognition of positive LGBTI policy developments
- Officials-level meeting of the ERC Coordinating Committee on the margins of HRC (March) or in an ERC member country (April)
  - Administrative Unit: Launch request for proposals
  - Signing ceremony for any new members
- Executive Committee meeting/call to prepare Global Conference Agenda, confirm Administrative Unit
- Thematic groups continue regular telephone/virtual communication; implement work plans
- Possible creation of ad-hoc groups focused on particular topics (for example, focused on good practice) by ERC member states, civil society, and/or multilateral agencies.

#### **May – August 2018**

- Continue information sharing, joint demarches to recruit new members and to respond to anti-LGBTI policies, and continue communications in recognition of positive LGBTI policy developments
- Thematic groups continue regular telephone/virtual communication; implement work plans, finalize content for conference, and develop transition strategy for incoming thematic group co-chairs
- Possible creation of ad-hoc groups focused on particular topics (for example, focused on good practice) by ERC member states, civil society, and/or multilateral agencies.
- July: Biennial Global Conference on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development
  - Venue: City in Western Canada, following principle of geographic rotation
  - Date: late July or early August (e.g.: July 30-August 1 TBC)

- Participants: Member and non-member governments and global civil society representatives
- August: Administrative Unit develops final report from Global Conference on LGBTI Human Rights and Inclusive Development

### **September-December**

- Continue information sharing, joint demarches to recruit new members and to respond to anti-LGBTI policies, and continue communications in recognition of positive LGBTI policy developments
- ERC/UN LGBTI Core Group High Level event at UNGA
- Coordinating Committee meeting (with participation of Executive Committee) on margins of the Third Committee
  - Thematic Group updates from past co-chairs, transition to new co-chairs
  - Review proposals for Administrative Unit and make selection
- Executive Committee meeting/call to brief and instruct Administrative Unit
- Possible creation of ad-hoc groups focused on particular topics (for example, focused on good practice) by ERC member states, civil society, and/or multilateral agencies.
- 

### **January – April 2019**

- Continue information sharing, joint demarches to recruit new members and to respond to anti-LGBTI policies, and continue communications in recognition of positive LGBTI policy developments
- Thematic groups continue regular telephone/virtual communication; implement work plans
- March: Officials-level meeting of the ERC Coordinating Committee on the margins of HRC
  - Thematic Group updates
- Executive Committee meeting/call
- Possible creation of ad-hoc groups focused on particular topics (for example, focused on good practice) by ERC member states, civil society, and/or multilateral agencies.

### **May – August 2019**

- Continue information sharing, joint demarches to recruit new members and to respond to anti-LGBTI policies, and continue communications in recognition of positive LGBTI policy developments
- Executive Committee meeting/call to finalise co-chair transition
- Possible creation of ad-hoc groups focused on particular topics (for example, focused on good practice) by ERC member states, civil society, and/or multilateral agencies.
- June: Transition event at HRC to welcome new co-chairs

## ANNEX A: Thematic Group Membership

<b>Thematic Group: International and Regional Diplomacy</b>	
State Co-chair: Netherlands	Stakeholder Co-chair: Pan Africa ILGA
Austria	ARC International
Canada	COC Netherlands
Chile	Council for Global Equality
Czech Republic	Dignity Initiative
Italy	ILGA World
Lithuania	Kaleidoscope Trust
Malta	OII Australia
United States	OTD Chile
	OutRight
	Pan Africa ILGA
	Rainbow Railroad (Canada)
	MOVILH

<b>Thematic Group: LGBTI Inclusion in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b>	
State Co-chair: United Kingdom	Stakeholder Co-chair: RFSL
Canada	Akahata
Finland	Colectivo Hombres XX
Norway	Egale Canada
	Espacio de Mujeres Lesbianas por la Diversidad - ESMULES
	OII Australia
	OutRight
	UNDP
	Stonewall
	World Bank
	Fundación Iguales

<b>Thematic Group: Coordination of Donor Funding</b>	
State Co-chair: United States	Stakeholder Co-chair: Synergia
Canada	COC
Germany	Council for Global Equality
	Egale Canada
	Equitas (Canada)
	Outright
	OTD Chile
	Fundación Iguales

<b>Thematic Group: National laws, policies and practices to protect LGBTI people</b>	
State Co-chair: Argentina	Stakeholder Co-chair: CREA
Canada	Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network
Costa Rica	Colectivo Hombres XX

Estonia	Espacio de Mujeres Lesbianas por la Diversidad - ESMULES
Israel	Human Rights Watch
Slovenia	OHCHR
Spain	OII Australia
	UNFPA
	MOVILH