The LGBTI Core Group will hold a high-level discussion during the high-level segment of the 76th session of the General Assembly to address the need to end the criminalization of same sex relations and trans identities in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda. As long as a part of the world’s population is criminalized simply for who they are or who they love, we will not be able to fully achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations LGBTI Core Group is an informal cross regional group of United Nations Member States established in 2008. The group is co-chaired by Argentina and The Netherlands, and includes Albania, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Mexico, Nepal, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, and the European Union, as well as the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the non-governmental organizations Human Rights Watch and Outright Action International.

Background:

LGBTI persons experience discrimination and exclusion based on their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics, real or perceived, in all corners of the globe. Moreover, in many contexts LGBTI persons are criminalized under the law through penal statutes that criminalize consensual same sex relations between adults as well as trans identities. In contexts where these laws exist, it is impossible for LGBTI individuals to live full lives realizing the full spectrum of their rights and their full potential.

The Sustainable Development Goals were designed and adopted in 2015 to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The 17 Goals serve as a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity and the shared principle of Leaving No One Behind. This principle can only be achieved if all relevant stakeholders offer support and opportunities for all, including LGBTI persons of diverse backgrounds, without discrimination and without violence of any kind, in full respect of their human rights, fundamental freedoms and dignity.

Although there have been positive outcomes in the implementation of the SDGs, severe barriers for the inclusion of all LGBTI persons around the globe remain. For instance,
criminalization, pathologization, social stigma and discriminatory laws and policies, especially in the context of COVID-19, make the realization of the SDGs impossible. Moreover, the lack of meaningful participation and often even exclusion of LGBTI persons in governance decisions, decision-making and other political processes that affect them hinders their valuable contribution and results in ineffective policies not targeted to their particular development needs.

The LGBTI Core Group is convinced that the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, with its principle of leaving no one behind, is intimately linked with the recognition of human rights and the guarantee of non-discrimination and equality for all, including LGBTI persons. In this decade of action and delivery for sustainable development we must put an end to the criminalization of sexual orientation and gender identity.

**Panellists:**
High Level State Representatives
High Level UN Representatives
Civil Society

**Moderator:** TBD