

Statement delivered by Sandeep Prasad of Action Canada for Population and Development (ACPD) to the Human Rights Council at the adoption of the UPR outcome report for Ecuador, June 9, 2008

*Check against delivery*

Thank you Mr. President

It is a great honour for me to deliver this statement prepared by 2 national human rights organizations based in Ecuador with whom we work (Taller Comunicacion Mujer and Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defence of Women's Rights - CLADEM- Ecuador). We welcome the strong commitment to the universality of human rights showed by the Ecuadorean delegation during the UPR review, including their defence of their obligation to combat discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In the same spirit, we welcome the decision made by the Constitutional Assembly to preserve the references forbidding discrimination based on sexual orientation in the text of the new Constitution that is currently being drafted - a decision that corresponds to the letter and spirit of UPR Recommendation No. 7 (UN Doc. A/HRC/8/20, par. 60 (7)). We wish to encourage Ecuador to add "gender identity" to the prohibited grounds of discrimination found in the new Constitution.

As an additional measure to continue the work Ecuador is already doing, we recommend to develop and implement training and sensitization programs on gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation issues for police personnel and for the educational system at all levels. We also recommend that it takes concrete steps to , to address the situation of social and economic marginalization faced particularly by travestis and transsexuals but also by many lesbians, bisexuals and gay men.

