

We welcome North Macedonia's commitment to Agenda 2030. We further acknowledge the recognition by the state that some groups in our society are still being left behind. We would like to highlight that social groups who are left behind are those that are often and historically discriminated against, including LGBTIQ people, women and girls, persons with disabilities, Roma and other ethnical minorities, individuals with HIV and people with intersected identities. The budgetary allocations put in place for the inclusion of these groups are minimal. These groups have limited access to anti-discrimination legislation, health services, employment, housing, personal identification documents and protection from gender-based violence. Despite the progress made towards inclusive education, the school curriculum is based on stereotypes and misconceptions of these groups, failing to include comprehensive sexuality education and protection mechanisms from bullying.

We welcome the wide consultative process with different constituencies. However, historically marginalized groups have not been fully represented. It is essential that LGBTIQ people, people with disabilities, Roma and all other excluded groups have equal access to development, and that we are recognized as equal stakeholders that actively participate in the society. It is crucial that our rights to development are ensured through the adoption of legal and policy reforms. Therefore, we have three questions:

1. What specific actions are you undertaking to ensure the protection and prevention of discrimination against marginalized social groups, including legal gender recognition of trans people?
2. What specific actions are you undertaking to ensure access to education, health and employment for all?
3. Finally, what is the plan towards eradicating all forms of inequality by 2030 to make sure that no one is left behind?

Thank you.