

Universal Periodic Review of Switzerland Adoption of UPR outcome – Geneva, March 2018

Oral Statement

Action Canada for Population and Development makes this statement on behalf of SEXUAL HEALTH Switzerland and the Sexual Rights Initiative.

We congratulate Switzerland on accepting a number of important sexual and reproductive health and rights recommendations, including on preventing and combatting violence against women and girls, domestic violence¹ and fighting human trafficking². We underline the importance of measures which ensure that ALL victims and sufferers are protected and supported.

We also welcome acceptance of recommendations addressing discrimination³ including those based on discrimination against LGBTI persons⁴. However, we are concerned that Switzerland rejected numerous recommendations during the interactive dialogue that would have led to comprehensive legislative changes or new legislation to address discrimination⁵ and therefore, closed the door on any further discussions. Evidence from reports mandated by the government demonstrate that discrimination against LGBTI persons remains prevalent in Switzerland. In this regard, we are very disappointed that the government rejected, for example, recommendation 147.33 on introducing specific legislation to address discrimination *based on gender identity or intersex status* with the rationale that *"Swiss law already provides for various means of protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity". ...*

We congratulate the government on accepting recommendations to address gender inequality such as 147.47 and 147.49, however, we are deeply concerned that the government did not support recommendation 147.56 to *"adopt legislation allowing for paternity leave"*, which would not have only been a specific measure to promote gender equality and tackle gender stereotypes in the long term, but would have meant that Switzerland did not remain as the only country in the whole of Europe without statutory paternity or parental leave.

We do hope that Switzerland will address these issues

Thank you

¹ For example 146.1-6 / 146.76-84

² 146.61-68 / newly accepted: 147.46

³ For example 146.27-30

⁴ **146.45 / 146.47 / 146.48**

⁵ Discrimination in general: 148.28 / 148.29 / 148.30-35 / 148.40 / 148.41