Mr President,

Right Livelihood thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report, and for the attention given by his mandate to the human rights violations against LGBTIQ+ persons in Uganda.

On May 26th, 2023, President Museveni signed the Ugandan Anti-Homosexuality Act, which targets sexually and gender diverse persons with extremely harsh sentences: from a life sentence for the crime of “homosexuality,” to the death penalty for “repeat offenders” and persons living with HIV. Even children could be put behind bars just for being who they are.

LGBTIQ+ Ugandans are now forced back into the closet, subjected to increased torture and violence, prevented from accessing life-saving health services or forced to seek asylum in neighboring countries.

This law is the embodiment of the homophobic climate that Ugandan lawmakers have been nourishing for years, under the false premise of protecting African traditional family values.

Mr. President,

Uganda is now on a mission. It is striving to inspire lawmakers from the region to put forward similar legislations, which are already being discussed in Kenya and Malawi.

The international community cannot be a bystander to such blatant disregard for human rights. We therefore call on the Council to take a strong stance against homophobic legislation by openly condemning the Anti-Homosexuality Act and urge the Ugandan authorities to: (1) Immediately repeal the law, recognising its anti-constitutional nature; (2) Fully align its legislation to its international human rights obligations towards the LGBTIQ+ community; (3) Take effective measures to address homophobia and transphobia in society, including through educational school programs and in cooperation with religious leaders.

Thank you.