Mr. President Yoweri Museveni

State House Office

P.O. Box 25497

Kampala

Uganda

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_2023

Dear Mr President,

As a member/sympathizer of ACAT-Belgium, I am writing to express my dismay about the Anti-Homosexuality Act, 2023, which you enacted on May 26, 2023.

Although it does not claim to condemn homosexuality per se, this law heavily condemns sexual acts between persons of the same sex (art. 2). This legal maneuver in no way alters the aim of the law, which is to criminalize LGBTI+ people.

In addition, the law introduces the offence of "aggravated homosexuality" (art.3), which is defined as any sexual relationship with a person of the same sex who is over 75 or under 18 years of age, who does not give or is unable to give consent, or who is disabled or mentally ill. The maximum penalty for "aggravated homosexuality" is the death penalty.

The "promotion" of homosexuality is also criminalized (art. 11). According to the law, anyone, whether an individual or an organization, who "knowingly advertises (…) homosexuality" is liable to up to 20 years' imprisonment. In the case of an organization, the penalty is a ban of up to ten years.

Uganda is a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), article 26 of which states that all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. Article 6 provides that in countries which have not abolished the death penalty, sentence of death may be imposed only for the most serious crimes and must not be contrary to the provisions of the ICCPR.

**I therefore urge you to:**

* **Intercede with Parliament to request the immediate repeal of the law against homosexuality;**
* **Intercede with the Minister of Justice to immediately suspend all criminal proceedings against individuals or organizations under the anti-homosexuality law;**
* **Intercede with the Minister of Justice to refrain from imposing the death penalty in Uganda;**
* **Take all possible measures to ensure that the rights of LGBTI+ people are respected.**

Thank you in advance for your efforts on behalf of human rights.

Respectfully yours,

Name

Signature

and Address

Copy: Ugandan embassy in Belgium Avenue de Tervuren 317, 1150 Woluwe-Saint-Pierre Fax: +32 2 763 0438 - Email : contactugandaembassy@gmail.com