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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 13th Session

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Universal Periodic Review of Algeria

Statement by Australia

29 May 2012

Australia acknowledges the steps Algeria has taken towards the promotion and protection of human rights since its last review in 2008. Australia welcomes the lifting of the State of Emergency in Algeria in February 2011 and Algeria's withdrawal in 2009 of its reservation in respect to article 9 (2) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

While Australia welcomes moves towards greater freedom of expression, we remain concerned by continuing allegations that Algerians are not free to fully exercise their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association.

We recommend Algeria take further measures to guarantee the right to freedom of expression, the right of peaceful assembly, and the right to freedom of association.

Australia would welcome advice from the delegation of Algeria on progress in implementing the agreed recommendations arising from Algeria's last review in 2008, particularly efforts to strengthen the protection of women's rights.

We recommend Algeria withdraw its reservation to Article 2 of CEDAW and accede to the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.

