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**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 16th Session
Universal Period Review of Russia
Statement by Australia**

Australia remains concerned by credible allegations of severe human rights abuses—including torture and disappearances—in the North Caucasus. **We recommend the Russian Federation fully implement the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights, including any judgements related to officials accused of serious human rights violations in the North Caucasus.**

We recommend the Russian Federation rescind legislation that curbs the civil rights of Russia’s LGBTI community. We further recommend the Russian Federation work on rights-related legislation with its Constitutional Court and Human Rights Commissioner to ensure legislation aligns with Russia’s international obligations.

We are concerned about the civil rights restrictions on those critical of the Government, including arbitrary arrests of opposition figures, selective judicial processes and requiring NGOs to declare themselves ‘foreign agents.’ We remind that such restrictions on civil society also impact on Russia’s international reputation and undermine the otherwise inclusive Russian leadership of the C20 process within the G20. **We recommend the Russian Federation fully implement any judgement by the European Court of Human Rights regarding the ‘foreign agent’ law.**

We remain concerned by the Sergei Magnitsky case and the level of protections afforded to whistle-blowers in Russia. **We recommend the Russian Federation implements its legislation to protect whistle blowers in a transparent, consistent and unbiased manner.**

HE Mr Peter Woolcott