

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 17th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Central African Republic

Statement by Australia

70

Australia remains concerned by the grave humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic. We acknowledge that the transitional authorities have indicated their commitment to facilitating the humanitarian response, including guaranteeing the security of humanitarian workers. **Australia recommends that the transitional authorities make improved access for humanitarian organisations an immediate priority.**

Australia urges the national transitional authorities to hold accountable those responsible for serious violations of human rights, including extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture, sexual and gender based violence, and arbitrary arrests and detention. **Australia recommends that the Central African Republic take steps to implement the country's obligations under the Rome Statute of the ICC.**

Australia is concerned by reports of widespread use of child soldiers by rebels in the Central African Republic and note that the LRA remain active. Australia welcomes President Djotodia's signed statement on 18 June reiterating his support for the African Union Regional Task Force against the LRA. **Australia recommends that the transitional authorities ensure demobilisation of child soldiers and commit to integrating children in armed groups back into civilian life.**

Australia acknowledges the Central African Republic's statement to the Human Rights Council on 7 June that committed CAR to the abolition of the death penalty before the end of the transition period. **Australia recommends that the authorities finalise the process of abolishing the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**