

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 17th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Nigeria

Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes the constructive leadership role played by Nigeria in global fora.

In 2009 Australia recommended Nigeria bring its National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in line with the Paris Principles and we welcome that this taken place. We further welcome the passage of the Nigerian Freedom of Information Act of 2011 and the protections it affords journalists and publishers.

Australia is disappointed that in June 2013 Nigeria carried out the execution of four Nigerian citizens after a de-facto national moratorium since 2006. We **recommend that Nigeria implement a moratorium on the death penalty, and take steps to accede to the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

Australia is concerned by widespread reports of extra-judicial killings and detention in the northern and north eastern states of Nigeria, particularly since the declaration of a state of emergency in May 2013. We take note of the June 2013 report by the NHRC on the Baga incident of April 2013 and the situation in north-east Nigeria and **recommend the Nigerian Government implement the report's recommendations. We recommend the Nigerian Government take effective action to ensure accountability of the armed forces and law enforcement officials.**

Australia is concerned that minority groups in Nigeria continue to face discrimination, including on the basis of their religion, sexual orientation or gender identity. Australia **recommends that Nigeria take steps to ensure the human rights of all citizens are protected, regardless of their religion, sexual orientation or gender identity.**