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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 18th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Cambodia

Statement by Australia

28 January 2014

Australia welcomes the Cambodian delegation. We commend the progress Cambodia has made in advancing human rights since its first review in 2009, including ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

Australia remains concerned about restrictions on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association in Cambodia. Australia is particularly concerned about recent disproportionate violence against protestors and the detention without trial of some protestors. **Australia recommends that the Government of Cambodia ensures full respect, in law and in practice, for the freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, consistent with international law.**

Australia notes allegations of electoral irregularities surrounding the 2013 national election, and welcomes the Government's stated commitment to undertake electoral reforms. **Australia recommends the Government of Cambodia undertake electoral reforms to ensure credible electoral processes.**

Finally, Australia recommends the Government of Cambodia establish an **independent national human rights institution, consistent with the Paris Principles.**