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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 18th Session

Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Chile

Statement by Australia

28 January 2014

Australia commends Chile for its commitment to advancing human rights through the establishment of the Chilean National Institute for Human Rights (INDH), and empowering the Ministry of the Interior to file complaints to the INDH for missing political prisoners and alleged executions relating to the 1973-1990 period of military rule. **Australia recommends that Chile ensures the INDH accords with the Paris Principles, and is sufficiently resourced to further advance human rights in Chile.**

Australia stresses the importance of continuing to enhance human rights education training and accountability measures to address allegations of the excessive use of force by security forces. **Australia recommends Chile accelerate steps to introduce a National Preventative Mechanism against Torture and ensure the definition of torture in national law is aligned with that contained in the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.**

Australia encourages Chile to continue to address discrimination and inequality and promote economic, health and education outcomes for indigenous peoples. **Australia recognises the advances in consultation with indigenous groups and recommends the further development of a process of effective dialogue and negotiation with indigenous groups to address land and natural resources issues.**

Australia commends Chile's plan to establish an office of the Under-secretary for Human Rights in the Ministry of the Interior and through this office, develop a human rights action plan. **We recommend Congress facilitate early passage of related legislation and ensure prompt preparation and implementation of the human rights action plan.**