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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 20th Session Universal Periodic Review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia Statement by Australia

Australia recognises Bolivia's efforts to address recommendations made in its last Universal Periodic Review.

Australia acknowledges that the Bolivian Congress is currently considering legislation which would require it to consult with indigenous peoples as part of the policy formulation process, including on infrastructure and mining projects. **Australia recommends that Bolivia ensure that legislation on consultation with indigenous groups be well-formed, take into account indigenous people's concerns, and be implemented effectively.**

Australia welcomes Bolivia's work to address challenges faced by its justice system, including corruption, delays, insufficient judicial coverage, access to justice, and institutional management and control. **Australia recommends that Bolivia continue to work with other partners to reform its justice system through training programmes.**

Australia is concerned at recent developments on the rights of children in Bolivia, and considers the approval of Law 548, the 'Boy, Girl and Adolescent Code' to be counterproductive to Bolivia's efforts to eradicate poverty. The Code exposes children to potential labour exploitation. **Australia recommends that Bolivia put in place legislation that protects children from labour exploitation through a minimum working age, consistent with its international legal obligations.**