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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 22nd Session

Universal Periodic Review of the United States of America

Statement by Australia

Australia commends the engagement of the United States in the UPR process, and supports its ongoing promotion of human rights standards at home and around the world.

Australia welcomes President Obama’s 2010 announcement of US support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, and continuing US efforts to better protect the rights of Native Americans.

Australia recognises US measures to address racial discrimination and use of force in policing. **Australia recommends the United States continue consultations, investigations and reform programs underway to eliminate racial discrimination and excessive use of force in policing.**

Australia remains concerned by the continued use of the death penalty, while acknowledging that three US states have repealed their capital punishment laws since the last UPR. **Australia recommends that the United States establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

Finally, **Australia recommends that the United States reinforce its role as a global leader on human rights by becoming a party to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.**

Tanya Bennett