

Human Rights Council
23rd session of the UPR working group, 2-13 November 2015
Review of Australia
Intervention by Denmark

Mr. President,

Denmark sincerely welcomes the presentation by the delegation from Australia.

In 2012, Denmark welcomed the recommendation made by the Australian Parliamentary Joint Standing Committee to take binding treaty action in regard to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment. However, Denmark observes that the Australian Government has still to ratify OP-CAT.

Denmark therefore reiterates our recommendation that Australia ratify OP-CAT without further delay.

Denmark commended the Australian Government for its endorsement of the Declaration on the rights of the Indigenous Peoples in 2011. However, Denmark notes with concern the high percentage of aboriginal children between the ages of 10 to 12 years held in detention centres.

Denmark recommends that Australia develops alternatives to the mandatory sentencing laws placing children as young as 10 years of age in juvenile detention centres.

I thank you.