



Statement by H.E. Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva at the United Nations Human Rights Council - 23th Session of the Universal Periodic Review

AUSTRALIA

Geneva, 9 November 2015

Mr. President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of Australia on the occasion of the presentation of the second National Report to the Universal Periodic Review.

My Delegation acknowledges the various efforts made by Australia in the empowerment of persons with disabilities, in closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians, especially among children, and in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A strong commitment to combating trafficking in persons, to the promotion of a cohesive multicultural society, to the provision of housing assistance and homelessness services, and to assisting refugees and migrants, also indicates progress.

My Delegation would like to recommend that Australia:

1. Continue its efforts to guarantee the human rights of indigenous peoples;
2. Make every effort to guarantee the human rights of asylum seekers, bearing in mind international obligations;
3. Reinforce the measures to improve conditions of detention, especially for persons with disabilities and the young, as well as to eliminate corporal punishment;
4. Provide comprehensive disability protection, with particular attention to the rights of children, while avoiding medical and political practices that affect the freedom and dignity of persons with disabilities.

Thank you Mr. President.