

**Statement by Hungary on Australia**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group**  
**9 November 2015**

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**Mr. President,**

Hungary warmly welcomes the delegation of Australia. Australia is an important partner in the promotion and protection of human rights at the international level. We particularly appreciate the work and the leadership role of the Australian Mission here in Geneva on a number of human rights issues.

Hungary welcomes the Government's focus on advancing civil and political rights. A key partner in these efforts is the Australian Human Rights Commission, whose funding has recently been significantly reduced. In view of the Government's priorities in the human rights field, Hungary **recommends** the revision of the decision to reduce AHRC's funds in order to guarantee its independent and effective functioning.

We welcome the Government's commitment to work towards the constitutional recognition of indigenous Australians as Australia's First Peoples and we note the intention to hold a referendum on this issue. In the meanwhile, Hungary, similarly to 2011, **recommends** the development, in partnership with indigenous communities, of a national strategy to implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Finally, Australia signed OPCAT, but has not made any progress on ratifying it. We **recommend** expediting the ratification process in order to allow for the early establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism.

**Thank you, Mr. President!**