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Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt

**The Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Twenty-Third Session**

Review of Australia

(Geneva, 9th November 2015)

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Mr. President,

My delegation extends a warm welcome to the High-Level Australian delegation.

Egypt welcomes the steps taken by Australia in follow-up to its review in 2011. The appointment of a Human Rights Commissioner, the National Plan to reduce violence against women, response to child sexual abuse and enhanced counter-terrorism measures are noteworthy. On the other hand, reports concerning racial discrimination and violence, rising islamophobia, mandatory immigration detention and policy of "push-back" of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers boats in international waters require serious and prompt attention. As for counter-terrorism strategies, we are of the opinion that all legislations and policies adopted in this regard should be in full compliance with the Convention against Torture as well as other international human rights documents.

We are encouraged by the reform agenda for indigenous affairs and the relevant advancement strategy. Nevertheless, several reports indicate that complex challenges including over-representation in prison population, racial profiling and difficulties in access to health, education, employment and justice remain sources of concern. Egypt recommends that the referendum to recognize indigenous Australians in the constitution is held in the nearest future and that Australia undertakes a review of sections 25 and 51(26) of the constitution in light of its international human rights obligations.

Moreover, Egypt recommends the following to the Government of Australia:

- 1- To ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW) and to withdraw its reservations to Article 4(a) of the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).
- 2- To provide protection to the family as the natural and fundamental unit of the society.
- 3- To further contribute to the global realization of the right to development including through ensuring that its annual ODAs (Official Development Assistance) matches the internationally agreed level of 0.7% of the GDP.

I thank you.