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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
23rd SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP OF THE UPR
REVIEW OF AUSTRALIA
9th NOVEMBER, 2015
STATEMENT BY NIGERIA

Mr. President,

Nigeria welcomes the delegation of Australia and thanks them for their report. We commend Australia for the effort in strengthening the legislative framework on human rights, in particular its National Anti-Racism Partnership, "Racism, It stops with me", aimed at combatting racism.

2. My delegation commends Australia for its commitment in the fields of health care, education and empowerment programme for people with disabilities.

3. We welcome the establishment of the Indigenous Advisory Council with a view to giving full recognition to and inclusion of indigenous persons in the affairs of the country. We note the plan to hold a referendum, which will enable well-defined identity of indigenous people in the Australian constitution and we urge the Government to conclude this initiative without delay.

4. Nigeria recommends the following:

- i. Australia should continue to address the problem associated with racial discrimination and policy disparities against indigenous persons;

- ii. To protect the right to religious belief of all persons in Australia;
 - iii. Give full protection to asylum seekers in accordance with international law, and abolish the practice of pushing the boats of asylum seekers back at sea.
5. Finally, we wish the delegation of Australia every success in its review process.

I thank you.
