

**Albanian Statement
on UPR-Australia**

Mr. President,

Albania welcomes the delegation of Australia for presenting their comprehensive national report today.

We would like to commend the progress taken by the Australian Government to protect freedom of speech, freedom of religion and other common law rights and liberties that have not been given sufficient focus domestically in recent years. In particular, Albania congratulates the appointment of a full-time Human Rights Commissioner in 2013 as well as the successful measures undertaken in the area of multiculturalism which has further strengthened the social cohesion of the society.

We also encourage the further governmental endeavors on the human rights improvements of the indigenous people in particular their community rights on education, housing, healthcare, employment, etc.

While encouraging the Australian Government for further improvements with regard to Human Rights, Albania has the following recommendations:

1. To undertake relevant safe measures on migrants trying to reach Australian borders according to the UN Convention on Migrants' Rights,
2. To ratify the HRC Option Protocol of Convention Against Torture, and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Albanian would once again like to commend the Australian Government for the overall progress achieved and wish her a successful review session.

Thank you!

BLERINA ZOTO
COUNSELLOR