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Statement by **AZERBAIJAN**
UPR of Australia

23rd session of the WG on UPR
09 November 2015, Geneva

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan welcomes the delegation of Australia and thanks the esteemed Delegation for the presentation of the national report.

We commend the efforts taken by the Australian Government to combat human trafficking and in this regard, we welcome the release of National Human Rights Action Plan in 2012.

We also positively note the engagement of Australia with the human rights mechanisms of UN and in this respect, we welcome the establishment of a public online database of recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms.

We would also like to note that some UN treaty bodies have expressed their concerns on the existence of problems related to the discrimination, violence against women and domestic violence, excessive use of force by police, as well as the situation of persons with disabilities.

At the end, we would like to **recommend** Australia the followings:

1. to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture;
2. to redouble its efforts to reduce violence against women and domestic violence;
3. to prevent religiously motivated incidents against Muslims and to promote multiculturalism and tolerance;
4. to prevent the excessive use of force by the police and to investigate all complaints thoroughly.

Thank you, Mr. President.