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**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 23rd Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Nauru**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia welcomes the delegation from the Republic of Nauru and appreciates its engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process. We recognise Nauru's efforts since the last UPR in 2011.

Australia welcomes the establishment of a Gender Violence and Child Protection Directorate. Australia is pleased to assist Nauru's efforts to address gender violence and child protection through support for a Gender-based Violence Counsellor. We commend the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). **Australia recommends Nauru develop a national strategy to implement obligations under CEDAW.**

Consistent with Nauru's acceptance of recommendations in its first cycle UPR, **Australia recommends Nauru swiftly decriminalise sexual behaviour between consenting adults of the same sex.**

Australia encourages Nauru to continue to uphold principles of democratic processes, including freedom of speech and the rule of law. Recognising concerns including journalistic freedom, Internet censorship and suspension of opposition MPs, **Australia recommends Nauru actively address issues of freedom of expression and association in Nauru, and support political representation for all Nauruans.**

Australia acknowledges Nauru's efforts to establish a national refugee determination framework to meet the rights of refugees and asylum seekers.

Australia looks forward to continuing to work with Nauru to improve human rights.

Tanya Bennett

