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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 23rd Session

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Universal Periodic Review of Oman

Statement by Australia

Australia appreciates the engagement of the Sultanate of Oman in this forum. Consistent with Oman's undertaking during its first-cycle UPR in 2011, **Australia recommends Oman ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.**

Australia commends the Omani Government's progress in providing access to education for women and girls. **Australia recommends Oman continue efforts to close the gender gap, especially in workforce participation and equality before the law.**

Australia is concerned freedom of expression and assembly remain restricted in Oman. **Australia recommends Oman review its legislative measures and practices in relation to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, with regard to the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur of peaceful assembly and association following his mission in September 2014.**

While Australia acknowledges the death penalty has not been carried out in Oman since 2001, and is reserved for the gravest of crimes, **Australia recommends Oman to accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

