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Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 23rd Session

Universal Periodic Review of São Tomé and Príncipe

Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes the delegation from São Tomé and Príncipe and appreciates its engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process.

We commend progress made since São Tomé and Príncipe's first review in 2011, including the appointment of the first Minister for Justice and Human Rights; the priority given to addressing domestic violence; and the legalisation of same-sex relations between consenting adults.

Australia also welcomes the work being undertaken to establish a National Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles, including the establishment of an Inter-ministerial Human Rights Commission.

While we recognise resource constraints and national legislation in some areas, **Australia recommends São Tomé and Príncipe ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.**

Australia also recommends São Tomé and Príncipe sign and ratify the Optional Protocol on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Australia further recommends that São Tomé and Príncipe enacts and implements legislation that prohibits discrimination in employment and occupation based on disability, language, sexual orientation, gender identity, and HIV-positive status or other communicable diseases.