



Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 24th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Namibia

Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes Namibia's constructive engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process and commends Namibia for progress made since its first cycle UPR in 2011.

Australia appreciates Namibia's leadership in advocating for the abolition of the death penalty, particularly through UPR recommendations.

Australia welcomes improvements in Namibia's institutional and policy framework aimed at eliminating discrimination against women and promoting gender equality. However, we remain concerned that certain traditional laws and customary practices that are harmful to girls and women persist. **Australia recommends Namibia abolish all harmful and discriminatory customary laws and practices which are directed towards women and girls.**

In this regard, Australia also recommends that Namibia implement awareness raising campaigns and education programs, working closely with traditional authorities, to promote and protect the rights of women and girls.

Australia is also concerned by overcrowding and poor prison conditions in Namibia. **Australia recommends Namibia takes steps to improve prison conditions and, particularly, ensures that adults and minor prisoners are separated at all times.**

