



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail UN.Geneva@dfat.gov.au

Chemin des Fins 2, Petit Saconnex, 1211 Geneva 19 Ph +41 22 799 9100 Fax +41 22 799 9175 www.geneva.mission.gov.au

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 24th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Somalia

Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes the successful High-Level Partnership Forum to address continuing fragility in Somalia. As a member of the Group of Friends of Somalia in the Human Rights Council, we appreciate and support Somalia's efforts to improve human rights, which are integral to ongoing stability and development in Somalia.

We welcome steps by Somalia to introduce institutions supporting fundamental rights, including the National Human Rights Institution. **Australia recommends that Somalia establish a National Human Rights Institution in full compliance with the Paris Principles as a matter of priority.**

Australia condemns ongoing human rights abuses against civilians in Somalia by all parties, including AMISOM. We particularly condemn the human rights violations by insurgent groups, notably Al-Shabab.

Australia condemns widespread violence against women, including female genital mutilation and sexual violence. Women are critical to a peaceful and secure Somalia, and must be given protection and the opportunity to participate in decision-making. **Australia recommends Somalia abolish in law and practice female genital mutilation, including through the ratification and implementation of the Maputo Protocol.**

Australia is also concerned about the continuing recruitment of child soldiers by all parties. **Australia recommends Somalia implement the national action plan against the recruitment of children into armed forces.**

Australia recommends Somalia establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.