**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 25th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Hungary**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia welcomes the delegation from Hungary and appreciates its engagement in the Universal Periodic Review process.

We welcome Hungary’s efforts to implement recommendations from its first UPR appearance. In particular, we welcome the 2011 Constitution’s establishment of a robust National Human Rights Institution – the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights (CFR). We encourage Hungary to continue supporting the CFR.

We note Hungary’s work to create bodies responsible for judicial independence, but are concerned by legislation that seeks to confine the Constitutional Court’s jurisdiction. **Australia recommends Hungary continue to pursue implementation of the UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and repeal all provisions of national law that restrict the Constitutional Court’s jurisdiction.**

We welcome the establishment of the inter-ministerial Human Rights Working Group, and the Human Rights Roundtable consisting of NGOs. However, we note with concern several highly prejudiced public statements about LGBTI people, from both political figures and government officials. **Australia recommends Hungary adopt and implement a comprehensive strategy and action plan to tackle discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.**

We are concerned by reports of police raids and criminal investigations targeting NGOs deemed at odds with the Government. **Australia recommends Hungary refrain from targeting or restricting the activities of civil society organisations based on their political affiliation or their receipt of foreign funding.**