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

**Universal Periodic Review of Swaziland**

**Statement by Australia**

The Government of Australia welcomes the delegation from Swaziland and appreciates its engagement in the UPR. Australia encourages Swaziland to continue towards implementation of recommendations accepted during its first UPR appearance in October 2011.

We commend Swaziland’s decision not to implement the death penalty since 1983. **Australia recommends Swaziland establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing the death penalty and ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

Australia is concerned by the restrictions placed on the freedoms of association and assembly. **Australia recommends that Swaziland** **enact legislation enabling political parties to register and contest elections.**

We are concerned by the prevalence of violence against women and girls in Swaziland. **Australia recommends Swaziland enact legislation to ensure women and girls’ rights are protected, including legislation banning early and forced marriages.**

Australia is concerned by the anomalies in Swaziland’s nationality laws and the apparent inconsistency with the Constitution, and the high risk of statelessness this presents. **We recommend Swaziland enact legislation to ensure the ability of all Swazi citizens, regardless of their sex, to confer citizenship upon their children**.

Australia urges the Government of Swaziland to invite the United Nations Special Rapporteurs to visit Swaziland to assist in improving the country’s human rights situation.