



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 – 25th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Tajikistan

Statement by Australia

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

We commend Tajikistan for institutional and legislative progress on human rights and encourage Tajikistan to enable its Human Rights Ombudsman to be an independent institution with the necessary resources to fulfil its mandate in conformity with the Paris Principles.

We commend Tajikistan for adopting a definition of torture consistent with the Convention against Torture, and for establishing an Action Plan to address torture. **Australia recommends Tajikistan strengthen practical efforts to eliminate torture.**

Australia welcomes the continued moratorium on the death penalty. **Australia recommends Tajikistan abolish the death penalty in law, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

We are concerned about ongoing restrictions on freedom of expression and opinion, particularly impacting the media, judicial independence and civil society, and targeting political, religious and sexual freedoms. **Australia recommends Tajikistan amend the Law on Public Association to ensure consistency with international human rights norms.**

We welcome Tajikistan’s efforts to fulfil its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and its ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. **Australia recommends Tajikistan take practical steps to strengthen the implementation of measures promoting the rights of women and children and eliminating violence against them.**