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

**Universal Periodic Review of Tanzania**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia commends Tanzania for the implementation of over thirty recommendations from its first UPR appearance, including strengthening the capacity of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance, and the implementation of the National Human Rights Plan of Action and the National Plan of Action for the Eradication of Violence against Women and Children.

Consistent with Tanzania’s plan of action, **Australia recommends Tanzania enforce laws criminalising gender-based violence and female genital mutilation.**

**Australia further recommends Tanzania raise the minimum age for marriage to comply with international child rights standards, to prevent child, early and forced marriages.**

Australia welcomes the de facto moratorium on the death penalty. However, **Australia recommends Tanzania establish a formal moratorium with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

We encourage Tanzania to commit to protect the rights of all persons regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. **Australia recommends Tanzania strengthen efforts to protect the rights of people with albinism, and other vulnerable and minority groups**.

Australia notes Tanzania’s commitment to freedom of expression, association and assembly within its democracy and society. Since Tanzania’s first UPR appearance, there have been claims of interference with freedom of expression, particularly with respect to the media. **Australia recommends the Government of Tanzania address concerns related to claims of interference with freedom of expression.**