**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 27th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Algeria**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia acknowledges the steps Algeria has taken towards the promotion and protection of human rights since its last review, including those in the 2016 constitutional amendments such as recognition of Tamazight as an official language, and establishing a National Council for Human Rights.

Australia also welcomes moves towards greater freedom of expression, although we remain concerned by continuing allegations that Algerians are not free to exercise these rights in full. **Australia recommends Algeria take further measures to guarantee the rights of expression, assembly, association and belief.**

Australia welcomes action taken by Algeria to address issues of discrimination against women, such as recent amendments to the constitution to support equality in the workforce, and amendments to the Penal Code to criminalise domestic violence and sexual harassment in public places. **Australia recommends Algeria withdraw its reservation to Article 2 of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.**

**Australia recommends Algeria formally abolish the death penalty, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**