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

**Universal Periodic Review of Brazil**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia welcomes the delegation from the Federative Republic of Brazil and appreciates its involvement in the UPR process. Australia acknowledges that Brazil’s economic recession has created a challenging environment in which to pursue human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights.

Australia continues to be concerned by ongoing threats and acts of violence against environmental and human rights defenders (including journalists and lawyers), and by the deaths of human rights advocates (including indigenous activists). **Australia recommends Brazil implement the *National Plan for the Protection of Defenders.***   
  
Australia remains concerned by reports of over-crowding and violence in the Brazilian prison system. **Australia recommends Brazil improve prison conditions, particularly addressing over-crowding and violence, including in prisons for women.**  
  
Australia is pleased that since the 2006 Maria da Penha Law has passed, every Brazilian state has appointed at least one specialist family violence judge. **Australia recommends Brazil increase its focus on policy implementation to combat family violence, and in particular violence against women and children.**  
  
Australia welcomes the positive impacts from Brazil’s hosting of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, which helped raise awareness about the rights of people with disabilities.