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

**Universal Periodic Review of Tunisia**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia welcomes Tunisia’s efforts to place human rights at the centre of its transition to democracy. The adoption of a new constitution in 2014, which guaranteed key human rights, was an important milestone. Australia encourages continued focus on these issues.

Australia acknowledges Tunisia’s acceptance of most recommendations brought forward during the second round of the Universal Periodic Review. However, we note recommendations made related to the abolition to the death penalty were rejected. **Australia recommends Tunisia formally abolish the death penalty, with a view to ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

Australia welcomes the creation of the High Authority for the Prevention of Torture but remains concerned about reports of torture in detention facilities. We are concerned by reports of discrimination and torture based on sexual orientation. **Australia recommends Tunisia introduce legislation to protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status.**

**Australia recommends Tunisia continues with security sector reform to ensure appropriate training and oversight mechanisms are in place.**