**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 44th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of the Russian Federation**

**13 November 2023**

**Statement by Australia**

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

Australia condemns Russia’s grave human rights violations, including in the context of its illegal invasion of Ukraine.

There is clear evidence Russia is committing egregious war crimes, comprising torture, mass executions, rape, deliberate shelling of civilians and forced deportations, including of children.

Australia is appalled by Russia’s crackdown on civil society, human rights defenders, independent journalists, opposition figures and minority groups, including LGBTQIA+ people.

Australia recommends that **Russia**:

1. **End its illegal war in Ukraine.**
2. **Repeal ‘foreign agents’ and ‘undesirable organisations’ laws and amend ‘extremism’ legislation to protect freedom of association and expression.**
3. **End its abuse of human rights in Russia, including for imprisoned politicians
Alexei Navalny and Vladimir Kara-Murza and other opposition voices, and ensure effective redress for violations.**

[123 words]