**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 45th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Belize**

**29 January 2024**

**Statement by Australia**

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

Australia commends Belize for upskilling its police in human rights, including standard operating procedures for detention and arrest, and the justifiable use of force. We also recognise Belize’s de facto moratorium on the death penalty.

Australia remains concerned by inadequate investigations into alleged cases of excessive use of force by police, and that Belize is yet to establish an institution to fully resource and empower these investigations.

Australia recommends **Belize:**

1. **Conduct credible, independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of excessive use of force by police.**
2. **Take necessary steps to formally abolish the death penalty in law and practice.**
3. **Establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.**

[118 words]