**UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review – 45th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of the Republic of Mauritius**

**24 January 2024**

**Statement by Australia**

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

Australia commends Mauritius for introducing a National Gender Policy, National Strategy to End Gender-Based Violence and Children’s Act.

We welcome the decriminalisation of same-sex relations and Mauritius’ support for the UN moratorium on use of the death penalty.

Australia remains concerned by ongoing gender-based violence, police brutality, pre-trial detention delays and barriers facing people with disabilities.

Australia recommends **Mauritius:**

1. **Strengthen legal measures to combat gender-based violence and improve victim support, including through the National Strategy to End Gender-Based Violence.**
2. **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and enact a Disability Rights Act.**
3. **Ensure effective investigation of police brutality allegations and reduce delays in criminal prosecutions.**

[120 words]