**UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review – 46th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of North Macedonia**

**2 May 2024**

**Statement by Australia**

Thank you, [President/Vice President].

Australia welcomes North Macedonia’s adoption of the Law on Prevention and Protection from Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

Australia notes that watchdog institutions continue to report widespread corruption in North Macedonia, and that corruption impedes enforcement of human rights.

Australia recommends **North Macedonia**:

1. **Implement anti-corruption laws and continue to support the work of the State Commission for Prevention of Corruption.**
2. **Finalise and enact the Law on Gender Equality and build the capacity of state institutions to respond to gender-based violence.**
3. **Take measures to protect the health and safety of prisoners, including by reducing overcrowding in prisons, addressing staff shortages and allowing prisoners’ proper access to healthcare.**

[**114 words]**