**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 28th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Peru**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia commends Peru on its efforts to improve the protection of human rights since its second Universal Periodic Review, including making positive progress on social inclusion, reducing poverty rates and increasing access to education and basic services.

Australia is encouraged by the inclusive consultation process that took place during the establishment of Peru’s *2017‒2021 National Human Rights Plan*. **Australia** **recommends Peru consider ways to ensure the 2017‒2021 National Human Rights****Plan is progressed, and implemented, in a manner consistent with the international human rights treaties to which Peru is a party; including by taking steps to protect human rights defenders from threats and intimidation to ensure they can perform their functions properly.**

While acknowledging Peru’s efforts to address gender equality, such as an increased number of ministerial appointments, **Australia recommends Peru continue to advance efforts to address gender inequality and undertake further measures, such as enacting specific legislation to protect vulnerable populations, including women, children and indigenous peoples, from violence and exploitation**.

We welcome Peru’s introduction of the *General Law for People with Disability (2012)*, however, we are concerned by reports that progress implementing this law has been delayed. **Australia** **recommends Peru continue its efforts to protect the rights of people living with a disability, and consider ways to increase job opportunities, for rural, women, and elderly people living with a disability.**