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

**Universal Periodic Review of Sri Lanka**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia acknowledges the steps Sri Lanka has taken to implement its commitments relating to reconciliation and transitional justice. Implementing these commitments and constitutional reform will help ensure Sri Lanka’s long-term political stability and prosperity. Australia welcomes the Interim Report of the Constitutional Assembly Steering Committee and the gazettal into operation of the Office of Missing Persons.

**Australia recommends Sri Lanka fully implement its commitments under Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 30/1 and the recommendations of the Consultation Task Force on Reconciliation, including to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act and replace it with international best practice legislation.**

Australia welcomes improvements in protecting freedom of expression, and the introduction of a quota for female participation in local government elections. However, discriminatory laws against women and LGBTI persons, and attacks on religious minority groups, continue to undermine Sri Lanka’s progress on human rights.

**Australia recommends Sri Lanka amend laws that discriminate against women, , and recommends that Sri Lanka decriminalise consensual same-sex conduct.**

**Australia recommends Sri Lanka investigate all attacks and hate speech against members of religious minorities, prosecute perpetrators, and take steps to prevent recurrence.**

**Australia also recommends Sri Lanka abolish the death penalty.**