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

**Universal Periodic Review of Switzerland**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia commends Switzerland’s strong domestic human rights record and the leading role it plays promoting human rights and mediating conflicts internationally.

Australia acknowledges work undertaken to implement the recommendations of Switzerland’s second Universal Periodic Review.  This includes the opening of consultations for the creation of a National Human Rights Institution.  **Australia recommends Switzerland continue to progress the establishment of an independent, Paris Principles-compliant, National Human Rights Institution.**

While noting that Switzerland’s constitution grants significant weight to legislation introduced through popular referenda, **Australia recommends Switzerland consider ways to ensure the outcomes of popular referenda can be implemented in a manner consistent with the international human rights treaties to which Switzerland is a party**.

While acknowledging Switzerland’s progress promoting equality for LGBTI persons, **Australia recommends Switzerland introduce specific legislation prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity or intersex status.**