

**Statement delivered by Sumbue ANTAS,**

**Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva**

**37**th **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Australia**

20 January 2021

Thank you, Madam President.

Vanuatu welcomes Australia to this review and thanks its delegation for the comprehensive presentation today.

Vanuatu recommends to Australia:

1. To implement more effective climate change policies based on a long term plan on reducing fossil fuel use, and pollution, which are contributing to adverse effects on the right to life and the right to health of people due to global warming, as well as toxic emissions.
2. To continue strengthening its mechanisms and policies to eradicate racial discrimination in particular against Indigenous peoples by revising the Constitution and recognising the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders’ rights to education, as well as other human rights. Such reforms would help to preserve their culture, and to reduce the discrimination based on cultural differences.

We wish Australia every success at this review.

Thank you, Madam President.