**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 37th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of the Sultanate of Oman**

**Statement by Australia**

**21 January 2021**

Thank you, Madam Vice President

Australia welcomes the human rights reforms Oman has implemented since its last Universal Periodic Review, particularly in women’s workforce participation. Australia is concerned about reported cases of harassment and detention of journalists and critics of the government, and mistreatment of detainees.

**Australia recommends that Oman:**

1. **Implement further reforms that improve women's economic empowerment and workforce participation, as well as reforms that eliminate discrimination against women in matters of family law.**
2. **Implement legal reforms to eliminate constraints on the peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association, and assembly.**
3. **Implement further reforms to the ‘kafala’ system to protect the rights of foreign workers.**
4. **Establish a moratorium on imposing and carrying out the death penalty, as a step towards its complete abolition.**
5. **Ratify and fully implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**