**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE**

**REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA**

**to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**Check against delivery**

**37th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**- Australia -**

**Statement delivered by**

**H.E. Ms. Teuta Agai-Demjaha,**

 **Permanent Representative of North Macedonia**

*Geneva, January 20, 2021*

Madam President,

North Macedonia welcomes the high-level delegation of Australia.

We welcome the proactive approach of the Australian government since their last UPR. We recognize the establishment of the Standing National Human Rights Mechanism in 2016. We also commend Australia’s commitment to preventing torture and mistreatment and the ratification of the OPCAT in 2017.

Our delegation would like to make the following recommendations to Australia:

1. To ratify the remaining human rights treaties including those which facilitate complaints under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

2. To raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility of children to 14, in accordance with international standards.

We wish Australia a successful UPR cycle.

I thank you Madam President.