**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 38th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Somalia**

**Statement by Australia**

**7 May 2021**

Australia commends Somalia for ratifying the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities. We welcome the child rights bill and strategy to prevent child soldier recruitment and facilitate reintegration.

Australia recommends that Somalia**:**

1. **Hold inclusive, free and fair elections as soon as practicable.**
2. **Uphold International Humanitarian Law, legislate to address sexual and
gender-based violence and withdraw the Sexual Intercourse and Related Crimes Bill.**
3. **Protect the rights of women, including by ratifying CEDAW, and take further steps to eliminate female genital mutilation.**
4. **Abolish the death penalty and accede to ICCPR’s Second Optional Protocol.**
5. **Protect media freedom consistent with ICCPR.**

**[96 Words]**