Thank you Madame President,

Australia welcomes the government’s enactment of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act 2018, and we commend the progress it makes towards achieving gender equality for all EmaSwati.

We have been following the unrest in Eswatini throughout 2021, and regret the loss of life and injuries sustained. We condemn acts of violence and encourage peaceful dialogue about the way forward.

Australia recommends that **Eswatini**:

1. **Continue reforms that prioritise women’s empowerment and gender equality, including taking steps to work with law enforcement authorities, the judiciary, communities and traditional leaders to implement the *Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act 2018*.**
2. **Establish an immediate formal moratorium on the death penalty with the view to its ultimate abolition, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.**
3. **Create an environment that facilitates inclusive, productive dialogue that ensures respect for human rights, including the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.**
4. **Repeal or amend laws discriminating against minority groups, including those that criminalise consensual same-sex acts between adults.**

**I thank you.**