**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 39th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Suriname**

**Statement by Australia**

**Monday 1 November 2021**

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

Australia commends Suriname for taking steps towards amending the Military Penal Code to abolish the death penalty.

Australia recommends that **Suriname:**

1. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**
2. **Establish and fully operationalise a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles.**
3. **Enact legislation to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.**
4. **Adopt the draft law on Equal Treatment of Women and Men and ensure it includes a definition of discrimination against women in line with Article 1 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.**
5. **Establish a formal platform to guarantee and protect the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples.**