**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 40th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Sudan**

**Statement by Australia**

**10 February 2022**

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

We commend the progress Sudan was making on human rights prior to the 25 October 2021 military takeover.

However, recent events indicate a change in Sudan’s human rights trajectory. While human rights violations continue, and the people of Sudan’s calls for a civilian-led path to democracy are ignored, Sudan’s democratic transition remains under threat.

Australia recommends that **Sudan:**

1. **Work with all stakeholders to address the current political impasse and develop a path towards democracy and peace.**

1. **Cease the use of arbitrary detention and release all civilians detained as a result of the military takeover on 25 October 2021, and related protests.**
2. **Stop the excessive and disproportionate use of force against civilian protesters and uphold the rights to freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly and association, including ensuring a free and safe environment for journalists to operate.**
3. **Approve and implement the proposed violence against women law, including provisions which clearly criminalise domestic violence with strict punishments.**
4. **Establish a formal moratorium on the use of the death penalty.**

**[176 Words]**