**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 42nd Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Japan**

**Statement by Australia**

**31 January 2023**

Australia commends Japan for its commitment to human rights, and progress made since its last UPR appearance, including becoming a State Party to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, in 2017.

We welcome Japan’s family law reform review, including consideration of a joint custody model. We also welcome the strengthening of anti-discrimination laws protecting Japan’s indigenous Ainu people.

**Australia recommends that Japan:**

1. **Resume the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution, ensuring its full compliance with the Paris Principles.**
2. **Expand the scope of the Hate Speech Elimination Act to prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation and gender identity.**
3. **Establish a moratorium on the use of the death penalty as a first step towards abolition and implement a mandatory appeals system against death penalty sentences.**

**[139 words]**