**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 29th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Mali**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia welcomes the establishment of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission in 2014 and progress made by Mali in staffing and equipping the Military Justice Directorate.

Australia is concerned about the welfare of vulnerable children who are at heightened risk of exploitation and social exclusion, such as those living in poverty or without a stable home. **Australia recommends Mali take steps to better protect the rights of the child and establish, resource and monitor specialised agencies to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable children.**

Australia is concerned by reports of killings of detainees, torture of suspects, mock executions and ill-treatment of prisoners**. Australia recommends Mali investigate and monitor all cases of alleged torture, killings and ill treatment of prisoners, and establish measures to ensure the perpetrators are held to account.**

While noting that Mali is considered abolitionist in practice we are concerned that the death penalty remains part of the law and is a mandatory sentence for some crimes. **Australia recommends that Mali formally abolish the death penalty.**