**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 30th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Burkina Faso**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia commends Burkina Faso on the development of the National Strategy to Ending Child Marriage in Burkina Faso 2016-2025. **Australia recommends Burkina Faso’s Code of Persons and Family is amended to guarantee that the same minimum age for marriage of 18 applies to men and women and includes all types of marriages, including religious and traditional marriages.** This would protect the rights of girls and support the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5.

Australia commends Burkina Faso’s efforts to improve access to health services, including services for women and girls, through the Access to Healthcare Services Programme. **Australia recommends Burkina Faso continue to strengthen efforts to improve access to healthcare for all, including access to sexual and reproductive health services.**

Australia is also concerned that the rate of female genital mutilation (FGM) remains high in Burkina Faso despite the practice being criminalised. **Australia recommends Burkina Faso ensure that people who continue to practice FGM are held accountable and prosecuted as a means to deter perpetrators**.

We welcome provisions in Burkina Faso’s new draft constitution to abolish the death penalty. **We recommend that Burkina Faso formally abolish the death penalty, including by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR**.

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