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

**Universal Periodic Review of Cameroon**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia commends Cameroon on provisions in its 2016 Penal Code prohibiting the genital mutilation of all persons, and applauds the efforts made under Cameroon’s Genital Mutilation National Action Plan to end this harmful practice.

Australia also welcomes provisions in Cameroon’s Penal Code that allow for humane solutions to overcrowding in prisons, including community service and reparative sentences.

Australia remains concerned about the continuing prosecution of individuals engaging in consensual same-sex relations. **Australia recommends that Cameroon decriminalise consensual same-sex relations.**

Australia commends Cameroon for its continued moratorium on carrying out the death penalty. **Australia recommends Cameroon formally abolish the death penalty by amending its Penal Code and counter-terrorism laws. Australia further recommends Cameroon ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

Australia notes with concern the recent outbreak of violence between Cameroon’s security forces and protesting minority groups in the country’s Southwest and Northwest. **Australia recommends that Cameroon lift unnecessary restrictions on the freedom of assembly, investigate the alleged excessive use of force in dispersing demonstrations and ensure arrested protestors receive fair trials.**

**Words: 178**