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

**Universal Periodic Review of Djibouti**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia acknowledges Djibouti’s recent elections, which have been described by international observers as peaceful and transparent. We commend Djibouti for welcoming international election observers. Australia also welcomes the substantial increase in the number of women Members of Parliament. **Australia recommends that Djibouti allow civil society, media and opposition parties to participate more freely in political processes**.

Australia welcomes Djibouti’s ongoing awareness campaigns on abandoning all forms of female genital mutilation (FGM), in line with legal reforms. **Australia recommends that Djibouti ensure that people who continue to practice FGM are held accountable and prosecuted as a means to deter perpetrators.**

Australia recognises the important contribution Djibouti has made to welcoming refugees from neighbouring countries consistent with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework. We commend Djibouti’s efforts to ensure the protection of refugees’ human rights and integration into the local community, including the integration of refugee children in local schools. **Australia recommends that Djibouti continue to work with international partners to improve access to basic services in refugee camps**.

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