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

**Universal Periodic Review of Germany**

**Statement by Australia**

The Government of Australia commends Germany’s strong domestic human rights record and its role promoting and protecting human rights internationally.

While recognising that eliminating gender inequality is a challenge for all countries, **Australia recommends that Germany continue introducing and implementing measures to reduce the gender pay gap and strengthen the representation of women in leadership and managerial positions**.

Australia is pleased to work with Germany to combat discrimination and violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons globally.  **We recommend that Germany further enhance such protections domestically by introducing a third gender category for people who do not identify as either male or female or are born with an ambiguous sexual anatomy**, in line with recent recommendations from Germany’s Federal Constitutional Court.

Australia welcomes the steps taken by Germany since its last Universal Periodic Review, including efforts to promote greater integration of refugees and migrant communities, and to counteract racial discrimination and racially-motivated violence.  **Australia recommends that Germany continue efforts to safeguard inter-faith relations and counteract anti-Semitism and other forms of racial discrimination**.

**Words: 175**