***As delivered***

**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 31st Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Mexico**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia thanks the Mexican Delegation for their report, and we welcome progress made in enacting and amending laws to improve the enjoyment of human rights by all individuals; and to protect victims of violence. But, Australia is concerned that in practice human rights violations remain widespread.

While acknowledging Mexico’s efforts to reform its criminal justice system, Australia is concerned about the lack of prosecutorial independence, which contributes to corruption and impunity. **Australia recommends that Mexico establish an independent Attorney General’s Office for conducting impartial investigations, and to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice.**

In Mexico’s second UPR cycle, we noted concerns about abuse of journalists and human rights defenders. This problem persists. **Australia recommends Mexico prioritise effective protection of journalists and human rights defenders, and guarantee sufficient resources to the *Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists*.**

Australia is concerned with high levels of family, intimate-partner and gender-based violence in Mexico. **Australia recommends that Mexico fully operationalise all measures to prevent and punish all forms of violence against women, girls and LGBTI persons.**