**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 33rd Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Costa Rica**

**Statement by Australia**

**13 May 2019**

Thank you [President/Vice President]

Australia recognises Costa Rica’s efforts to improve its national framework for advancing human rights, making it a regional leader in this regard. While we commend progress since Costa Rica’s second cycle review, further action is needed.

Australia recommends that **Costa Rica**:

1. **Systematically address gender-based violence and expand the provision of legal aid and shelters for women and girls in need.**
2. **Take further measures to increase representation of women in the labour force.**
3. **Increase efforts to reduce the societal stigma faced by LGBTI people and eradicate involuntary surgical procedures to ‘normalise’ the bodies of intersex people.**
4. **Address ongoing racial inequality, particularly for indigenous and afro-Costa Rican communities, and adopt a coordinated strategy to combat child labour and sexual abuse among disadvantaged and migrant communities.**

**126 words**