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

**Universal Periodic Review of Equatorial Guinea**

**Statement by Australia**

**13 May 2019**

Australia is deeply concerned at the narrowing political space in Equatorial Guinea.

Australia recommends that **Equatorial Guinea**:

1. **Repeal or amend legislation that infringes upon the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly and institute a legal framework that protects these fundamental freedoms and punishes those who violate them.**
2. **Release any political dissidents, human rights defenders or journalists that have been detained for legitimately exercising their freedom of expression, association or peaceful assembly.**
3. **Investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment with a view to ensuring full accountability and preventing recurrence.**
4. **Amend Law No 1/1999 to facilitate the swift registration of Civil Society Organisations that have submitted applications and evaluate all applications on their merits.**
5. **Accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and take all necessary steps to abolish the death penalty.**

We urge Equatorial Guinea to institute legislative change, and bring domestic law into compliance with their international human rights obligations.