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

**Universal Periodic Review of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

**Statement by Australia**

**14 May 2019**

Australia commends Ethiopia on steps taken to widen the political space, releasing political prisoners and improving standards for persons in detention. Australia congratulates Ethiopia on its efforts to improve gender equity by implementing gender parity in its Cabinet.

However, challenges remain, including limits placed on freedoms of association, peaceful assembly and expression.

Australia recommends that **Ethiopia**:

1. **Ensures civil and political rights, particularly freedom of association and freedom of expression, are upheld, including ending the practice of internet shutdowns.**
2. **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty, as a step towards complete abolition.**
3. **Take measures to reduce the societal stigma faced by LGBTI persons, including repealing provisions in national law that criminalize consensual same sex relations.**
4. **Ensure the treatment of internally displaced persons in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement 1998.**