

## Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 32<sup>nd</sup> Session

### Universal Periodic Review of Comoros

#### Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes the establishment of a Comoros National Human Rights Institution and urge the Government of Comoros to ensure the institution's compliance with the Paris Principles.

Australia is concerned by reports of limitations on freedom of expression and assembly, and actions which undermine the separation of powers and independence of legal institutions in Comoros. **Australia recommends the Government of Comoros respect and protect democratic freedoms, and uphold democratic principles, including the rule of law, and refrain from escalating existing political tensions, including in the run up to and conduct of proposed elections.**

**Australia recommends that Comoros decriminalise same-sex relationships between consenting adults and implement policies to address inequality, violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.**

We are concerned by reports of long periods of detention without trial and poor prison conditions in Comoros. **Australia recommends Comorian authorities review the rights of detainees to ensure they meet international standards.**

We commend Comoros' work towards abolition of the death penalty. **Australia recommends Comoros formally abolish the death penalty and accede to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Second Optional Protocol.**