

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 32nd Session

Universal Periodic Review of Eritrea

Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes Eritrea's delegation to the UPR. Australia also welcomes Eritrea's peace agreement with Ethiopia. We hope this agreement will be a catalyst for increased international cooperation and transparency.

While Eritrea has acceded to the Convention Against Torture, we are concerned by reports of torture, and arbitrary and indefinite detention. We urge Eritrea to fulfil its obligations under all international human rights instruments to which it is a party.

Australia recommends Eritrea ratify and fully implement the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

Australia is concerned by reports of forced labour and compulsory, prolonged national service in Eritrea. **We recommend Eritrea introduce legislation that prohibits the use of forced labour, enforces reasonable time limits for national service and provides options for conscientious objection.**

While noting that Eritrea has not carried out an execution for some time, **Australia recommends that Eritrea formally abolish the death penalty and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.**

Australia regrets the Government of Eritrea's lack of cooperation with UN Special Procedures. **Australia recommends that the Government of Eritrea implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry's 2016 report, including implementing the 1997 Constitution to allow its citizens safe and full freedom of expression.**