

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 32nd Session

Universal Periodic Review of Vietnam

Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes Vietnam's efforts to advance human rights since 2014. Australia recognises that Vietnam places a high priority on supporting social welfare, improving living standards and promoting sustainable development. Australia also commends Vietnam for its commitment to human rights dialogues, including with Australia, and welcomes the frank exchange of views at our 2018 dialogue.

Australia acknowledges Vietnam's reduction in the number of crimes incurring the death penalty. **Australia recommends Vietnam cease applying the death penalty for non-violent crimes, including drug offences. Australia further recommends that Vietnam establish a moratorium on the death penalty as a step towards complete abolition of this practice.**

Australia remains concerned about restrictions on freedom of assembly and association and **recommends that Vietnam enact laws to provide for freedom of assembly and peaceful demonstration in line with the ICCPR.**

Australia also remains concerned about freedom of expression in Vietnam, particularly restriction of freedom of expression online. **Australia recommends that Vietnam amend provisions of the Cyber Security Law, including articles 8, 18 and 26, to ensure they are consistent with article 19 of the ICCPR.**