**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 32nd Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of the Islamic Republic of Yemen**

**Statement by Australia**

Australia welcomes the Yemeni delegation to this UPR.

Australia deplores the ongoing conflict in Yemen. These hostilities have triggered a humanitarian disaster, crippled infrastructure and restricted Yemen’s ability to exercise authority over its territory.

Australia recognises the challenges for Yemen in improving the human rights situation given the ongoing hostilities. **Australia recommends Yemen continue to engage seriously in UN-mediated peace talks, recognising that a comprehensive political solution is the most effective way to address the suffering of the Yemeni people.**

Australia is concerned about the obstacles to humanitarian access to Yemen’s civilian population. **Australia recommends Yemen abide by the Stockholm Agreement and facilitate the delivery of food, fuel and medicines to all Yemenis.**

**Australia recommends Yemen facilitate full access for members of the Group of Eminent Experts to investigate grave human rights violations and abuses and violations of international humanitarian law**. Australia supports the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts.

We are concerned about the disproportionate impact of the hostilities on women and children. **Australia recommends that Yemen transparently investigate incidents of gender-based and sexual violence to establish accountability for these crimes.**