

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 32<sup>nd</sup> 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.**