**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 33rd Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of Dominica**

**Statement by Australia**

**9 May 2015**

Thank you [President/Vice President]

Australia welcomes the Dominican delegation.

Australia commends Dominica on improvements to its approach to development and human rights, and its commitment to democracy.

Australia recommends that **Dominica**:

1. **Take further steps to protect the rights of women and children, especially through strengthening support services.**
2. **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to formalise its de facto moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolition.**
3. **Take measures to reduce the societal stigma faced by LGBTI persons, including repealing provisions in national law that criminalize same sex relations, including in the Sexual Offences Act.**
4. **Take continuing steps to establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.**

**123 words**