

General comment

Resolution on the situation of human rights in Syria

The Commission of Inquiry has made clear that human rights violations and abuses, war crimes and crimes against humanity continue in Syria.

Australia welcomes the improved focus in this text on sexual and gender-based violence, which has been a persistent issue in Syria since the uprising in 2011 and for which the Syrian authorities and associated militia, as well as ISIL, bear particular responsibility.

Australia also welcomes the strong language in this text condemning the continued use of chemical weapons by Syrian authorities. The use of chemical weapons at anytime, anywhere, under any circumstances is abhorrent and must not continue to be perpetrated with impunity. We welcome the decision to empower the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to attribute responsibility to those who carry out chemical weapons attacks.

We call on all sides – especially the Syrian Government – to cease violence against the Syrian people and engage in a genuine dialogue to reach a political solution, without which the suffering will continue.

This Council has shown strong leadership in responding to the ongoing atrocities in Syria. We must continue to do so.

Australia strongly urges all members to support this text and to oppose the amendments which have been tabled.