

Human Rights Council – 38th Session

Interactive Dialogue with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Haiti

3 July 2018

Australian Statement

Australia welcomes the report of the High Commissioner and commends the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (2004-2017) on its efforts to provide technical assistance and capacity building to the Government of Haiti. We note progress by the Government of Haiti in addressing Haiti's challenges regarding human rights and the rule of law.

Australia acknowledges Haiti's efforts to develop a draft national human rights action plan. We strongly encourage the Government of Haiti to finalise the plan.

Australia welcomes the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti, mandated in part to assist the Government strengthen rule of law institutions, including the judiciary and prisons. We are concerned by the lack of progress in this area, including action to reduce prolonged pre-trial detention and prison overcrowding. We are also concerned by recent increases in deaths in custody and urge Haiti to address this.

We are troubled by reports by the High Commissioner about the lack of transparency in the appointment process for the new Protecteur to lead Haiti's National Human Rights Institution, the Citizens' Protection Office. We urge the Government to take steps to ensure the Office remains compliant with the Paris Principles for national human rights institutions.

Australia remains concerned about gender-based violence and inequality, trafficking and domestic slavery of women and children. We encourage Haiti to take immediate measures to address these abuses.

225 Words