

General Comment as delivered

L.7 Resolution on the situation of human rights in Belarus

Australia welcomes the resolution on the situation of human rights in Belarus.

We share the Special Rapporteur's concern that the period of review of his most recent report has shown no improvement in the human rights situation in Belarus.

Australia is particularly concerned by the Government of Belarus' lack of progress in abolishing the death penalty. Australia opposes the death penalty in all circumstances for all people. We reiterate our full support for the Special Rapporteur's recommendation that authorities in Belarus adopt a moratorium on executions, as a step towards the total abolition of the death penalty.

We urge all states to actively seek pathways to move out of Item 4 consideration, and encourage affirmative action on the part of Belarus to cooperate with the OHCHR and the mechanisms of the Council. We support the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus and encourage Belarus to work constructively with him.