Human Rights Council – 38th Session

Annual thematic panel discussion on
technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights

Theme: Human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals: enhancing human rights
technical cooperation and capacity-building to contribute to the effective and inclusive
implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Australian Statement
4 July 2018

We thank the Panel members for their presentations.

Australia agrees that realising the 2030 Agenda's commitment to 'leave no-one behind' is
intrinsically linked to dismantling discrimination, reducing inequalities, and addressing
"the structural root causes that keep people in poverty, and that marginalize, exclude or
discriminate against them in laws, policies and social practices". *[A/HRC/38/28, para 32]*

History has demonstrated that sustainable strategies for peace and development are
inclusive approaches that respect and embrace global diversity and protect the
universality of individual human rights. Conversely, exclusion is frequently a root cause of
conflict, underdevelopment and human rights violations.

States should be supported in their efforts to both uphold their human rights obligations
and implement the 2030 Agenda. Human rights technical cooperation and capacity-
building can make a crucial contribution in this regard, particularly to ensuring that all
peoples are included in, and benefit from, development.

Australia considers that National Human Right Institutions (NHRIs) are an integral part of
this equation. NHRIs connect a state's international human rights commitments with its
domestic realities and the lived experiences of individual rights holders and, in doing so,
support the development and maintenance of inclusive societies, where human rights are
protected and no one is excluded.

We would welcome the Panel's reflections on how states, or UN agencies, might engage
with NHRIs to deepen technical cooperation and capacity-building that contributes to the
implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

231 words