**Human Rights Council - 39th Session**

**Resolution on the Right to Development - General Comment**

**27 September 2018**

**Australian Statement**

Australia cannot support the draft resolution L.12 on the right to development.

We acknowledge there are a range of views on the concept of a right to development, including the proposal – included in draft resolution L.12 – to develop ‘an international legal standard of a binding nature on the right to development’.

Australia considers that existing international human rights law treaties provide comprehensive protections for human rights, and there is no need for additional treaties. Furthermore, we are concerned that existing international human rights architecture is already overstretched and we cannot support a proposal that would put further pressure on the international human rights system.

In the spirit of constructive negotiations, Australia and others raised these concerns with the penholder. We were disappointed that the penholder did not engage with our comments. For all of these reasons, Australia calls for a vote on this resolution and will vote no. We encourage other members of the Council to also vote no.