**Human Rights Council – 39th Session**

**28 September 2018**

**Statement at Action**

**Australian Statement**

**Equal Participation in Political and Public Affairs**

As co-sponsor of this resolution, we cannot accept this amendment to L.14.

Having negotiated in good faith on this resolution, and having reached agreement on the text following significant concessions from the core group, we are disappointed this amendment has been tabled at the last minute.

Along with 10 other incoming members of the Human Rights Council, we pledged that we would engage in the work of the Council in good faith and in a transparent manner, including in resolution negotiations. The core group for this resolution carried out negotiations on this text in accordance with this approach.

This amendment seeks to further weaken the text of this important resolution – a resolution which now has over 60 co-sponsors.

The draft guidelines to which the resolution refers make a positive contribution to our collective efforts to comply with Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

They provide a useful, balanced, good-practice toolkit for countries to use as they see fit.

This amendment is unnecessary as the guidelines are already non-binding, non-prescriptive and aspirational in nature.

We reject this amendment and will vote no, and we call on all members on the Council to do the same.

*Delivered by Deputy Head of Mission, Elizabeth Wilde*