**Human Rights Council – 39th Session**

**28 September 2018**

**Statement at Action**

**Australian Statement**

**Introduction of National Human Rights Institutions Resolution**

Australia is proud to present draft resolution L.19, on National Human Rights Institutions.

The resolution reflects the integral role National Human Rights Institutions play in the international human rights system. The unique ability of NHRIs to take international debates and make them relevant in local contexts is essential to realising human rights for all.

Draft resolution L.19 is a streamlined text, drawing together key elements from the Council’s past work on NHRIs. This draft concisely reiterates the fundamental contribution NHRIs make both domestically and internationally, in support of the implementation of human rights obligations.

This year, the resolution also explores the ways in which NHRIs, through the performance of their core functions as set out in the Paris Principles and in line with their independent mandates, foster the development and maintenance of inclusive societies, in support of sustainable development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ‘seeks to realise the human rights of all’, most particularly through its commitment to ‘leave no-one behind’. ‘Leave no-one behind’ is a clarion call for inclusion. It represents a commitment to participation and the human rights obligations of equality and non-discrimination.

NHRIs are particularly well placed to support this commitment. By connecting States’ international human rights obligations with the lived experience of individual rights holders, they make a daily contribution to highlighting inequity and marginalisation. They also encourage inclusion and equality, which is fundamental to combating poverty and fostering sustainable development.

The text calls for the Office of the High Commissioner to convene a further consultation on this topic in the margins of the annual meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, to take place in Geneva in March 2019. A summary report of that consultation will be prepared for presentation at the 41st session of the Human Rights Council.

Australia thanks all delegations, and civil society, for their constructive contributions. The resolution has been the subject of four informal negotiations, comprising two full readings of the text. We welcome the collaborative spirit in which delegations have worked to strengthen the resolution, which has allowed us to issue a revised draft taking into account many concerns and suggestions.

Mr President,

We commend the text of draft resolution L.19 to the Council and encourage all members to support its adoption by consensus.

Delivered by Head of Mission, Sally Mansfield