**Human Rights Council – 39th Session**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi**

**17 September 2018**

**Australian Statement**

Australia thanks the Commission of Inquiry for its report and remains deeply disappointed that Burundi has not cooperated with the Commission, particularly as it is a member of the Human Rights Council. Currently there are no independent international mechanisms in Burundi to investigate human rights violations. We ask the Government of Burundi to fully resume its engagement and cooperation with international human rights bodies to enhance the protection and promotion of human rights for all.

Australia welcomes the announcement by the President of Burundi that he will not seek another term in 2020. We call on the Government of Burundi to ensure the 2020 elections are fair, free, transparent, peaceful and include all political parties and the full and equal participation of women.

Australia is gravely concerned at the findings of the Commission of Inquiry that serious human rights violations continue to be committed in Burundi within a climate of impunity. We urge the Government to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to act urgently to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice.

We ask the Commission of Inquiry what practical steps the international community can take to help it continue to document human rights violations in Burundi?

**200 Words**