**Human Rights Council – 39th Session**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Commission of Human Rights on South Sudan**

**17 September 2018**

**Australian Statement**

Australia is pleased that parties to the conflict in South Sudan are working towards peace. We urge all parties to the conflict to show commitment and political will to ensure that agreements are implemented.

Australia welcomes the recent verdict in the Terrain Hotel case. This is a small step in addressing the culture of impunity, but we continue to urge the government to work with the African Union to establish the Hybrid Court so that all perpetrators of human rights violations can be brought to justice.

As such, Australia remains deeply concerned by the human rights situation in South Sudan. Deliberate attacks on civilians and sexual violence mainly against women and girls continue to be perpetrated by armed groups, including government troops.

Australia strongly condemns such attacks, including those documented in the July 2018 report from the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Australia welcomes UNSC resolution 2428 (2018) which requires member states to: impose an arms embargo in respect of South Sudan; continue the asset freeze and travel ban imposed by UNSCR 2206; and designate two new individuals subject to those measures.

We ask the Commission what more the international community can do to ensure that the ceasefire and peace agreements are implemented?

**Words: 216**