**Human Rights Council – 39th Session**

**Annual Panel Discussion**

**Participation and inclusion of indigenous peoples in the development and implementation of strategies and projects in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**19 September 2018**

**Australian Statement**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides an important opportunity to positively impact the lives of indigenous peoples.

Australia is committed to ensuring that actions to address the 2030 Agenda are inclusive and adequately promote and protect the rights of Indigenous peoples.

All seventeen Sustainable Development Goals are relevant and important for indigenous peoples. For this reason, indigenous peoples must be included in every step along the journey of implementing the Goals. In line with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, States, government agencies, the private and not-for-profit sectors, United Nations experts, academia and communities should ensure that the views and opinions of indigenous peoples are taken into account when developing responses to the 2030 Agenda.

Australia has taken this approach in the development of our report for the Voluntary National Review process. We highlighted the vulnerability of groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and ensured Indigenous Australians participated in consultations. We also benefitted from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation at the High Level Political Forum.

Australia is working with the OECD to explore how the international community can support developing States, especially the poorest States, to include indigenous peoples in their own national development efforts.

We welcome views on whether the Council and its mechanisms could collaborate with international aid donors to strengthen joint efforts to achieve the SDGs and realise better outcomes for indigenous peoples.

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