

**Human Rights Council – 40th Session**

**General Comment: End of Item 3**

**22 March 2019**

**Australian Statement**

As we have said in this forum before, Australia does not support references to ‘a community of shared future for all human beings’. Firstly, the language is unclear; it does not have an agreed definition. The language amounts to domestic political rhetoric, which is not appropriate for multilateral documents. Further, the language should not be used to describe an overarching objective for an international effort, in this case the realisation in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights.

We were disappointed that a number of texts were shared late in the process of negotiations this session, leaving little time for engagement on the text prior to tabling day. Upon taking up membership on the Council, Australia pledged that we would engage in the work of the Council in good faith and in a transparent manner, including in resolution negotiations. A fundamental aspect to good faith negotiation is the need for penholder states to distribute their zero draft resolution texts in a timely manner. We encourage all penholders to circulate texts in a timely manner to allow full and proper negotiations.