

Human Rights Council – 40th Session

Action on draft resolution A/HRC/40/L.25
22 March 2019

Australian Explanation of Vote

Australia has been consistent in its principled opposition to inherent anti-Israel bias and one-sided resolutions in the Human Rights Council.

This text, L.25, fails to call for accountability and justice on both sides. For example, it is unacceptable that Hamas is not mentioned at all in this resolution. While we welcome efforts to reform Item 7, the number of one-sided, anti-Israel resolutions has not reduced. The content of this resolution also does nothing to bring both sides closer to achieving lasting peace and stability for Israelis and Palestinians.

Australia remains strongly committed to a two-state solution, where Israel and a future Palestinian state exist side-by-side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders. In support of this, we continue to urge both Israel and the Palestinians to respect international law and we support independent and impartial investigations of any alleged violations of international law.

We do not condone actions that diminish the prospects for peace or contribute to the current stalemate that we now see.

For this reason, we will maintain our opposition to this resolution and wish to call a vote, and will be voting no. Likewise, we will maintain our principled opposition to Item 7 and vote no on those resolutions.