

Human Rights Council – 40th Session

Resolution: Human Rights and Unilateral Coercive Measures
Statement at action: Explanation of Vote

21 March 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the NAM for holding two rounds of informal consultations on L.5 entitled Human Rights and unilateral coercive measures.

Australia does not agree with resolution L.5 and the inference that autonomous sanctions are inherently unjust or contrary to international law. Targeted sanctions can be a powerful tool to promote human rights and hold accountable those who violate or abuse them. L.5 mischaracterises international law. We believe that sanctions can be an appropriate, effective and legitimate measure that is fully compliant with international law and the United Nations Charter.

The nature and content of this draft resolution focuses on the relations between States instead of on the human rights of individuals. Australia does not believe the Human Rights Council is the appropriate forum to address this issue. Australia has concerns that the aim of certain countries is to pursue political goals within this resolution. This is unacceptable.

For these reasons, Australia cannot support resolution L.5 and will vote against.