

Human Rights Council – 40th Session

Resolution: Cooperation with Georgia
Statement at Action: General Comment

22 March 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the delegation of Georgia for presenting L.24 “Cooperation with Georgia”.

Australia is a strong and consistent supporter of Georgia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. We do not recognise the claims to independence of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

We remain concerned by the lack of progress in the Office of the High Commissioner being granted access to these Georgian regions. This resolution reaffirms the need for unimpeded access to Georgia’s occupied territories by human rights mechanisms.

As this resolution stresses, the authorities in control of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia have a responsibility to uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The recent tragic incident in the Gali district in Georgia’s region of Abkhazia demonstrated the important role which the transparency promoted by international monitoring mechanisms can play, as well as underlining the risks of cultivating impunity surrounding human rights situations.

It is fitting for Georgia to put forward this resolution, as these regions are integral parts of Georgia. Continued international human rights engagement and reporting can help prevent further deterioration of the situation.

Australia supports resolution L.24 and calls on all members of the Council to do likewise.