

Human Rights Council – 40th Session

Resolution: Environmental Human Rights Defenders  
Statement at action: General Comment

21 March 2018

Australia welcomes L.22 on Environmental Human Rights Defenders.

We are pleased to be a co-sponsor of this text and appreciate the extensive work done by the penholder, Norway, to ensure a balanced, strong resolution.

Human Rights Defenders make a vital contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights, to peace and security, and to the achievement of sustainable development for all.

We welcome this resolution's contribution to our understanding of the challenges faced by environmental human rights defenders.

We particularly note the intersectional dimensions of challenges faced by environmental human rights defenders who are also women, indigenous peoples, rural and marginalized communities, and persons belonging to minorities.

We reiterate L.22's call for states to provide a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders, and to combat impunity for attacks or reprisals against them.

Thank you.