

Human Rights Council – 40th Session

Action on draft resolutions under Item 7
22 March 2019

Australian General Comment

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

In her speech to the High Level Segment on 25 February 2019, Australia's Foreign Minister outlined Australia's principled opposition to the existence of Item 7. It remains our firm view that Item 7 expresses this bias and is inappropriate. Furthermore, the one-sided resolutions introduced under Item 7 each year do nothing to bring both sides closer to achieving lasting peace and stability for all Israelis and Palestinians, including resolving final status issues.

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 applicable international law and we support independent and impartial investigations of any alleged violations of international law.

We do not condone actions that diminish the prospect for peace or contribute to the current stalemate.

For this reason, we will maintain our principled opposition to Item 7 and vote 'no' on all four resolutions.