

Human Rights Council – 40th Session

Item 10: High-level Interactive Dialogue on the human rights situation in the Central African Republic

20 March 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Independent Expert for her oral update.

Australia welcomes the signing of the Political Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation by the Government of the Central African Republic (CAR) and many of the armed groups, and urges all parties to adhere to the agreement.

We call on the CAR Government to ensure accountability for human rights violations and abuses. Australia welcomes the commitment to establish a Commission on Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation as one mechanism to address human rights abuses. We encourage the CAR Government to develop transitional justice approaches that focus on the interests of victims and ensure their participation.

Australia remains concerned that the people of CAR are not adequately involved in current peace and reconciliation processes. Australia encourages all parties to recognise the value of local peace initiatives and ensure active engagement in the peace process by all actors, especially young people, women and those in rural and remote areas.

In addition, Australia is concerned by the continued prevalence of human rights abuses stemming from sectarian violence, particularly sexual and gender based violence against women and girls and attacks on humanitarian aid workers. We urge the Government to protect these groups from violence and ensure that perpetrators are brought to justice.

We ask the Independent Expert what can be done by the CAR Government to guarantee victims of human rights abuses access to an effective remedy?

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