

Human Rights Council – 41<sup>st</sup> session

Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Business and Human Rights and  
the Working Group on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

26 June 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Working Group on Business and Human Rights for its report, and its key message that respect for human rights must be at the heart of corporate sector contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Australia's Aid for Trade program supports projects that help deliver on Sustainable Development Goal 8 – Decent Work and Sustainable Economic Growth. Our partnership with the International Labour Organization's Better Work Program is improving workplace standards for 2.2 million workers in our region, about 75 per cent of whom are women.

The report refers to Australia's Modern Slavery Act (2018) which aims to improve transparency to combat modern slavery in the domestic and global supply chains of goods and services. It requires certain businesses and entities to publish annual statements detailing their actions in this area. The Australian Government will also report on modern slavery risks in Commonwealth investments and procurement.

Australia thanks the Working Group on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for its report.

We note the report's discussion of the gendered nature of women's deprivation of liberty. Domestic violence, though pervasive, is often invisible outside of the home. Australia is upskilling General Practitioners and other frontline service providers to help them recognise, respond to and refer victims of domestic violence.

We ask the Working Group for its views on effective ways to increase awareness of deprivation of liberty by family members as a human rights abuse.

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