

Human Rights Council – 41st Session

Resolution: Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

12 July 2019

Australian Statement: Explanation of Vote

We thank the main sponsor for presenting resolution L.1, *Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights*, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Australia remains steadfastly committed to the principle of international cooperation. As recognised by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international cooperation is key to assisting States to meet their human rights obligations. Indeed, the need for cooperation is one of the founding principles of this Council. Past resolutions of this Council have recognised that importance, and we were pleased to support them.

We are disappointed that once again, the main sponsors of this resolution have opted for a path that prevents us from reaching consensus on this important issue.

Draft resolution L.1 is largely unchanged from the 2018 resolution on international cooperation, and the problems that we and many other delegations have with this resolution remain unaddressed. We remain concerned at persistent efforts by the main sponsors to introduce language from the political declarations of a body in which many of the states represented at this Council are not represented.

We continue to reject the inference in this resolution that autonomous sanctions are unjust or contrary to international law. Targeted sanctions can be a powerful tool to promote human rights and to hold accountable those who violate or abuse them. Such sanctions can be an effective and legitimate tool of foreign policy, and are fully compliant with international law. We are also concerned at ongoing efforts in this resolution to elevate certain rights over others, an effort which is incompatible with the principle that human rights are universal, indivisible and inalienable.

We deeply regret these ongoing attempts to use this resolution to introduce concepts entirely unrelated to international cooperation, which diverge from core principles of international human rights law.

Our concerns and those of other delegations were and are well-known to the main sponsors of this text, and we reiterated them across two informal negotiations.

145 Words