

Human Rights Council – 42<sup>nd</sup> session

Explanation of Vote

Amendment L.44 to HRC42 Resolution on Cooperation with the United Nations,  
its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights

27 September 2019

Australia opposes amendment L.44, which proposes amendments to Operative Paragraph 1.

This amendment is a distraction from the very real issue that individuals who engage with international bodies – including the Human Rights Council - continue to face acts of intimidation and reprisal.

Operative Paragraph 1 is agreed language, dating as far back as the consensus HRC Resolution 22/6 on protecting human rights defenders.

The phrase “right to unhindered access to and communication with international bodies” is based on protections provided by the landmark UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. The Declaration was adopted by consensus at the UN General Assembly in 1998 and recognised the importance of protecting human rights advocates.

As a result, Australia will vote against this amendment, and we urge members of this Council to do the same.