

Human Rights Council – 42nd session

Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on the Central African Republic

26 September 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Independent Expert for her update.

Australia welcomes moves to strengthen the ongoing peace process in the Central African Republic (CAR), but notes further efforts are needed from all parties to address religious and ethnic tensions, and reject the use of political violence.

Whilst we note efforts to reform the security sector, such developments must be accompanied by measures to combat impunity. These will be central to building confidence in the peace agreement and in public institutions. To this end, we call on the CAR Government to progress investigations and, where merited, prosecutions of those accused of human rights violations or abuses, including state officials.

Sexual and gender-based violence, conflict-related and otherwise, remains a key concern. Australia notes that all parties to the peace agreement have an obligation to prevent such offences and seek justice for victims, and to promote the active participation of women in reconciliation dialogues. Addressing barriers to their involvement in political processes will be particularly important in light of upcoming elections.

We are encouraged by the commencement of national consultations towards the establishment of a truth, justice, reparations and reconciliation commission, and urge all parties to engage constructively to ensure it leads to greater national unity.

We ask what efforts are being undertaken at a local level to support implementation of the peace agreement and rebuild social cohesion?

224 Words