

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

Statement at action: End of Item 3

27 September 2019

Australian Statement

Australia considers existing international human rights treaties provide comprehensive protections for human rights, and that there is no need for additional treaties.

Furthermore, we are concerned that the existing international human rights architecture is already overstretched. We cannot support proposals that would put further pressure on the international human rights system.

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Australia was happy to [support / join consensus on] the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation at HRC42. We acknowledge the critical importance of access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all people equally.

However, we remain unable to co-sponsor the resolution on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. It is Australia's view that there are no standalone rights to safe drinking water or sanitation.

Rather, the right to safe drinking water and sanitation is a component of the right to an adequate standard of living under Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

169 Words