

Human Rights Council – 43rd session

General Comment at Action

HRC43 Resolution on The right to food

19 June 2020

Thank you Madam President.

We thank Cuba for its work on this resolution- but as we have said in this forum before, Australia does not support references to ‘a community of shared future for humanity’ found in PP9 of this resolution. This is a domestic concept that is unclear and lacks an agreed definition in multilateral documents.

Our concerns and those of other delegations were well-known to the penholder, as we reiterated them during the negotiations. Use of this term causes confusion, and potentially undermines long-established principles of human rights. Further, the language should not be used to describe an overarching objective for an international effort, in this case the realisation of the right to food.

Australia considers that the right to food is a component of Article 11 and the right to an adequate standard of living in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). Consistent with the ICESCR, Australia does not consider there is a standalone right food. In this regard, Australia appreciates that PP3 of the resolution appropriately references the ICESCR.