

Human Rights Council – 43<sup>rd</sup> session

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children

2 March 2020

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur for her presentation, and for her work throughout her six year tenure.

We welcome the Special Rapporteur's report, including the recognition of harmful social norms and gender stereotypes which drive the sale and sexual exploitation of girls, and which hinder adequate responses for boy survivors. As noted in the report, vulnerability to sexual exploitation can also be exacerbated by multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and power imbalances between children and adults in organisations<sup>i</sup>.

Eliminating child sexual abuse in organisations and ensuring accountability in this context is a priority for Australia. In 2017, the Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse released its final report after a five-year inquiry. Our response to the report continues to address child sexual abuse in all settings, including institutional, online and familial.

We also welcome the Special Rapporteur's work on child sexual exploitation in the context of travel and tourism. Australia places a high priority on combatting this particular form of child sexual exploitation. In 2017 the Australian Government introduced new laws restricting registered child sex offenders from leaving Australia or holding Australian passports.

We would like to ask the Special Rapporteur how the international community can best coordinate efforts among states where offenders travel to sexually abuse children, and states whose citizens engage in such abuses, to eliminate sexual exploitation in the context of tourism.

*230 words*

---

<sup>i</sup> A/HRC/43/40 para 66-69