

Human Rights Council – 43rd session

Interactive Dialogue with the Commission on human rights in South Sudan

9 March 2020

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Commission for its work and welcomes the Commission's report on human rights in South Sudan.

Australia welcomes the formation of a transitional unity government. Implementation of the peace agreement remains the best opportunity to secure a peaceful future. We continue to urge full implementation of the agreement, and encourage community consultations and security sector reforms to ensure greater respect for fundamental human rights.

We encourage opposition groups who have not joined the peace agreement to continue negotiating in good faith and to abide by the cessation of hostilities agreement.

Australia condemns the serious human rights violations highlighted in the Commission's report. The fundamental rights and freedoms of the South Sudanese people have been systematically denied. We deplore the widespread and pervasive sexual and gender-based violence that has taken place and urge the Government of South Sudan in the strongest terms to provide accountability and justice for women and girls impacted by the conflict.

We urge the Government of South Sudan to fully implement transitional justice mechanisms and the Hybrid Court in order to ensure accountability. Australia agrees with the Commission that redress for human rights violations and abuses is a precondition for sustainable peace and security and welcomes views on how best this can be achieved.

[195 words]