

Human Rights Council – 43rd Session

General comment on Cooperation with Georgia Resolution

22 June 2020

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the delegation of Georgia for presenting this draft resolution entitled “Cooperation with Georgia”.

Australia is a strong and consistent supporter of Georgia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. We do not recognise the claims to independence of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. These regions are integral parts of Georgia. We reject any steps by the authorities in control of those regions to undermine Georgia’s territorial integrity.

We remain concerned by the lack of accountability for human rights violations and abuses in these Georgian regions. As the High Commissioner reported, increasing restrictions on the freedom of movement, including the closure of crossing points by the authorities in control in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, have caused the human rights situation in these regions to deteriorate.

We are also disappointed by the lack of progress on granting access to the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia since this resolution was last presented. It is fitting for Georgia to present this resolution once again to reaffirm the need for unimpeded access to its occupied territories by the international community to continue to investigate alleged human rights violations. Continued engagement and reporting can help prevent further deterioration of the situation.

Australia supports resolution L.7 and calls on all members of the Council to do likewise.