

Human Rights Council – 43rd session

Explanation of Vote

Methods of work of the Consultative Group of the Human Rights Council

19 June 2020

Australia shares the EU's concerns about the resolution L.25.

We also share the concerns that many states have about the current lack of equitable geographic representation and of appropriate representation of different legal systems among Special Procedures Mandate Holders.

There are undoubtedly a range of factors responsible for this situation. We are confident, however, that the methods of work of the Consultative Group are not the issue. The particular criteria that must be met by mandate-holders, and the need to give due consideration to gender balance, equitable geographical representation and of appropriate representation of different legal systems is clearly articulated in the Institution Building Package.

Australia would welcome genuine attempts to support efforts to support diversity among the Special Procedures Mandate Holders. We would readily support a text mandating the President of the HRC to conduct consultations to identify the underlying causes of the lack of representation from geographic groups and legal systems, and to identify measures that would help the Consultative Group to meet the general criteria and particular requirements relating to the appointment of mandate-holders as set out in resolution 5/1 and decision 6/102.

Regrettably, the text of L.25 has pre-judged the reason for this lack of representation. The solution presented in L.25 does not actually address the barriers for meritorious applicants applying for these roles. We are also concerned that this text does not emphasise the crucial role and contribution of Special Procedures Mandate Holders in promoting and protecting human rights, nor does it encourage states or other institutions to encourage or support individuals in applying for Special Procedures roles.

For these reasons, Australia will vote against L.25 and we encourage other states to do the same.