

Human Rights Council – 44th session

Interactive Dialogue on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges
and lawyers

13 July 2020

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur for his report.

Public prosecution services, judges and judicial institutions, when they act with independence and integrity, play a central role in addressing corruption risks, upholding human rights, fundamental freedoms and the application of the rule of law.

Australia secures the independence of its prosecution services by maintaining open courts and strong governance arrangements within prosecution services, judicial institutions and the legal profession. We also maintain robust parliamentary, public, and media scrutiny.

Australia has committed to establishing a Commonwealth Integrity Commission to investigate corruption in the public sector and work with agencies, including public prosecution services, to detect, deter and investigate corrupt conduct.

Australia is interested in the Special Rapporteur's comments on the importance of effective international cooperation and its relationship with the independence and integrity of prosecutors in the fight against corruption.

Given human rights defenders pushing for investigations into corruption are often the targets of violence, we would be interested in hearing the Special Rapporteur's views on how international cooperation can help to put protective measures in place.

166 Words