

Human Rights Council – 44th session

Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on the oral reports of the Sudan and OHCHR

16 July 2020

Australian Statement

Australia looks forward to the opening of the fully mandated OHCHR country office in Khartoum and thanks Sudan and OHCHR for their oral updates.

We note that the establishment of a country office with a full mandate for human rights protection and promotion remains one of the conditions for the termination of the mandate of the Independent Expert.

We appreciate Sudan's efforts to investigate allegations of human rights violations. We call on Sudan to make public the findings of its national investigations and hold those responsible to account.

We welcome recent positive human rights developments including the decriminalisation of apostasy.

Australia also welcomes reforms to protect women's rights and end gender-based violence, including repealing restrictive public order laws and banning female genital mutilation. We encourage Sudan to enforce the ban; hold perpetrators to account; educate communities on the law; and ensure access to justice and health services for victims and survivors.

Australia asks what further steps can be taken to ensure victims and survivors of past human rights violations in Sudan have access to justice and can meaningfully participate in the justice process?

183 Words