**Human Rights Council – 45th session**

**Enhanced Interactive Dialogue: Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan**

**23 September 2020**

**Australian Statement**

Australia thanks the Commission for its work and welcomes the updates provided on human rights in South Sudan.

Australia welcomes the appointment of state-level leadership positions and hopes this will encourage stability and reduce violence on the ground in South Sudan’s constituent states.

We continue to urge full implementation of the 2018 Revitalised Peace Agreement, including the provisions on security sector reform and the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms such as the Hybrid Court to provide justice for victims and hold perpetrators to account.

Australia condemns attacks on civilians and the continued escalation of violence, including in *Jonglei*, *Warrap* and *Unity* states. We are deeply concerned by recent attacks on humanitarian convoys and aid workers and call on all parties to abide by applicable international law and the 2020 Rome Declaration on the peace process in South Sudan.

We call on South Sudan to fully cooperate with humanitarian agencies, and we urge all parties to allow safe, sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access.

Australia asks the Commission how the international community could support an increase to the number of women appointed to positions in government in accordance with the Revitalised Peace Agreement and a meaningful role for women in civic life?

***199* Words**