**Human Rights Council – 45th session

General Comment**

 **Resolution on the situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela**

**Australia Statement**

**6 October 2020**

Australia remains deeply concerned by the devastating political, economic, social and humanitarian situation in Venezuela, as documented by the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission report. The report’s accounts of widespread and systematic human rights violations, including extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and torture, are profoundly alarming.

This resolution recognises the gravity of the human rights crisis in Venezuela and acknowledges the continued erosion of democratic institutions by Venezuelan authorities.

This resolution will deliver important outcomes for the people of Venezuela by extending the mandate of the Fact-Finding Mission to investigate gross violations of human rights, contribute to accountability for perpetrators and seek justice for victims.

We urge the Venezuelan authorities to implement fully the recommendations contained in the report and provide immediate and unhindered access to the Independent Fact-Finding Mission. We also welcome the High Commissioner’s ongoing work in providing technical assistance and capacity building to Venezuela, in line with mandate of the L.55 text adopted [yesterday], and urge the Venezuelan authorities to implement the High Commissioner’s recommendations alongside those of the Fact-Finding Mission.

We ask other Members to join us in supporting this resolution.

***185 words.***