

Human Rights Council – 37th Session

Item 7 – Australia's Explanation of Vote
23 March

Australian Statement

Australia has been consistent in its principled opposition to the existence of Item 7 of the Agenda of the Human Rights Council. It is our firm view that a separate agenda item focusing on a single country situation – in this case Israel – is inappropriate. It reflects inherent bias in the Council.

Australia is strongly committed to a two-state solution, where Israel and a future Palestinian state exist side-by-side in peace and security within internationally recognised borders.

We do not support actions that diminish this prospect.

The one-sided resolutions introduced in the Human Rights Council under Item 7 each year do nothing to bring Israel and the Palestinians back to the negotiating table.

Australia has consistently called for both sides to avoid any action that undermines the prospect of a peaceful negotiated agreement.

Throughout our membership of the Human Rights Council, Australia will continue to urge both sides to respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

However, we will maintain our principled opposition to the existence of Item 7. For this reason, Australia will vote against each of the five resolutions under Item 7.