

## Human Rights Council – 37th Session

### Agenda Item 3 Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

#### Explanation of vote after the vote

23 March 2018

#### Australian Statement

Australia is pleased to have participated in our first session as a member of the Human Rights Council.

We thank the Core Group for presenting resolution L.37, *the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development*, and for the open and constructive negotiations, in which Australia actively engaged.

The Vienna Declaration and Program for Action affirms that democracy, development and respect for human rights are interdependent and mutually-reinforcing.

Similarly, the 2030 Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, international human rights treaties and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It is grounded in human rights and necessitates a human rights-based approach to the implementation of our sustainable development commitments.

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be consistent with a State's obligations under international human rights law. We emphasise the responsibilities of all states to respect, protect and fulfil human rights for all, without distinction of any kind and the global commitment to 'leave no one behind'. We are pleased that this has been recognised in draft resolution L.37.

Australia is strongly supportive of resolution L.35, Equality and non-discrimination of persons with disabilities and the rights of persons with disabilities to access justice. Australia is committed to ensuring that the rights of persons with disabilities are protected and fulfilled. Australia recognises that

persons with disability enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others in all aspects of life. As expressed in Australia's Declaration of 17 July 2008, Australia's understanding is that the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities allows for fully supported or substituted decision-making arrangements, where necessary as a last resort and subject to safeguards.

Finally, in relation to L41, *Contribution to the implementation of the joint commitment to the effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem with regard to human rights*, given the adoption of amendment L.58, Australia disassociates from the relevant paragraph inserted into L.41.