

Human Rights Council – 37th Session

Enhanced Interactive Dialogue on Eritrea
12 March 2018

Australian Statement

Australia welcomes increased engagement by the Government of Eritrea with the international community and its commitment to implement Eritrea's Universal Periodic Review recommendations.

Australia appreciates the Special Rapporteur on Eritrea's efforts. We encourage the Government of Eritrea to increase cooperation with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry's May 2016 report.

Australia reiterates the Special Rapporteur's concerns, including reports of sexual and gender-based violence.

We remain disturbed by the Commission of Inquiry's findings of reports of human rights violations including the arbitrary use and open ended duration of military service; the absence of judicial processes; disappearances; indefinite detention; and the use of torture.

We call on the Government of Eritrea to cooperate with the UN human rights mechanisms put in place to help it address human rights concerns and tackle impunity with regard to perpetrators of human rights violations.

Australia encourages Eritrea to broaden its democratic space, including with respect to the freedom of expression.

We urge the Government of Eritrea to implement the 1997 Constitution and to respect human rights treaties to which it is party.