

Human Rights Council – 37th Session

Clustered Interactive Dialogue

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

6 March 2018

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Special Representatives for their reports.

We agree with the Special Representative on Violence against Children on the importance of investments during early childhood to prevent violence. Domestically, Australia works at all levels of government, and with civil society, through frameworks to reduce child abuse and violence against women and their children.

We appreciate the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict's emphasis that human trafficking constitutes a violation of the human rights of children, and is linked to other abuses, like child labour or forced marriage. Australia has implemented a robust, domestic response to such crimes.

Tackling these complex issues requires a global, joined-up approach. Australia plays a leading role in the Alliance 8.7 partnership, which assists UN Member States to eradicate human trafficking, child labour, modern slavery, and forced labour.

Australia agrees that practical, regional cooperation is key to addressing human trafficking and related exploitation. We are pleased to co-chair with Indonesia the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime. In 2017, we launched the Bali Process Government and Business Forum, our region's first public-private partnership to tackle human trafficking and modern slavery.

Australia is concerned by the denial of humanitarian access to children in armed conflict. We join the Special Representative in urging all parties to conflict to allow humanitarian actors full, safe and unhindered access to populations in need.

We welcome the Special Representative's views on how the international community could better safeguard humanitarian access in armed conflict – especially to children – and hold those who deny it accountable.

259 Words