



# AUSTRALIA



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## **UNGA Third Committee Item 72: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery**

### **Intervention for 25 October 2019**

- Australia thanks the Special Rapporteur for her presentation and welcomes her report on child slavery and the various forms in which it manifests today.
- As the report demonstrates, eliminating child slavery requires systematic responses that address criminal justice and law enforcement, human rights, development, commercial and social policy and welfare issues.
  - This needs concerted action, across and between governments, international agencies, business and civil society.
  - It also requires addressing the root causes of child slavery and increasing efforts to promote gender equality, particularly noting the gendered nature of modern slavery, which disproportionately affects girls and women.
- To this end, Australia engages with partner countries to build strong legal policy and operational frameworks to tackle child slavery and support vulnerable workers domestically and internationally.
- At the national level, Australia is committed to preventing and eradicating child slavery through the implementation of international labour standards.
- Under Australia's new *Modern Slavery Act*, large companies and other organisations will report annually on their actions to address modern slavery risks in their operations and supply chains

- We agree with the Special Rapporteur that regional and international partnerships, incorporating governments and businesses, are important if we are to maximise effectiveness in this space.
  - In our region, we work collaboratively with governments, the private sector and civil society to implement the Bali Process Government and Business Forum's Acknowledge, Act and Advance recommendations to improve supply chain transparency and ethical recruitment and employment.
- Australia continues to contribute to the Alliance 8.7 partnership's collective efforts to accelerate action on SDG 8.7 through the Global Coordinating Group.
- We would welcome the Special Rapporteur's views on particular arrangements or strategies to best harness the work of partnerships such as Alliance 8.7 in the fight against child slavery.

*312 words*