I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of Australia and a group of 47 countries – a full list will be uploaded to the HRC extranet.

The recognition of the inherent dignity, and equal and inalienable rights, of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world.

We are concerned that some states seek to promote some human rights over others.

Every individual is entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights; as states, we cannot pick-and-choose between our obligations to protect, respect and fulfil human rights. For indeed, in the words of Martin Luther King, ‘a right delayed is a right denied’.

We reaffirm that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis.

The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action makes clear that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that the international community needs to support the strengthening and promotion of democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the entire world. It also makes clear that while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights.

In the words of former UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, ‘there can be no peace without development, no development without peace, and no lasting peace or sustainable development without respect for human rights and the rule of law.’

We call on all UN members to give effect to our responsibilities in this regard.
Co-sponsors

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5. Canada
6. Chile
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8. Croatia
9. Cyprus
10. Czechia
11. Denmark
12. Estonia
13. France
14. Fiji
15. Germany
16. Greece
17. Georgia
18. Guatemala
19. Iceland
20. Italy
21. Ireland
22. Japan
23. Latvia
24. Lithuania
25. Luxembourg
26. Liechtenstein
27. Netherlands
28. New Zealand
29. Malta
30. Marshall Islands
31. Mexico
32. Monaco
33. Montenegro
34. Poland
35. Portugal
36. Romania
37. Republic of Korea
38. San Marino
39. Slovakia
40. Spain
41. Solomon Islands
42. Sweden
43. Switzerland
44. Turkey
45. Uruguay
46. Ukraine
47. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland