

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 31st Session

Universal Periodic Review of Central African Republic (CAR)

Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes the establishment of a National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. **Australia recommends the Central African Republic ensure the National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms is properly resourced to ensure that it can independently implement its action plan.**

Australia is pleased with the Special Criminal Court initiative. **Australia recommends the CAR continue to operationalise the Special Criminal Court, including by providing adequate resources and support to enable the court to fulfil its mandate.**

Australia regrets that the death penalty applies to certain crimes despite progress towards its abolition. **Australia recommends the CAR formally abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.**

Concerning humanitarian assistance, **Australia recommends the CAR improve access for humanitarian agencies and organisations to ensure affected people's immediate and critical needs are met.**

Finally, **Australia recommends the CAR fully implement the Optional Protocol to the CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict to address continuing recruitment of child soldiers and ensure their demobilisation and reintegration into society.**

177 Words