

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 32<sup>nd</sup> Session

Universal Periodic Review of Dominican Republic

Statement by Australia

Australia welcomes the Dominican Republic delegation to this UPR session and thanks the delegation for its presentation.

Australia welcomes changes to the constitution which prohibit violence against women and discrimination on the basis of gender or nationality.

However, Australia remains concerned by the prevalence of gender-based violence and limitations on sexual and reproductive rights. **Australia recommends the allocation of adequate resources to fully implement the national action plan on violence against women.**

**Australia also recommends the Dominican Republic enact comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation which includes, inter alia, sexual orientation and gender identity as protected characteristics.**

Australia is concerned by the lack of progress in implementing Special Law 169-14 to address the statelessness crisis, impacting some 92,000 people, largely of Haitian origin. **Australia recommends the naturalisation process be adequately resourced to ensure all applicants can access fair and timely adjudication of claims to restore their citizenship.**

Australia remains concerned by reports of rights violations by law enforcement and the growing culture of impunity, arbitrary detentions and extra-judicial killings. **Australia recommends the establishment of an independent body to investigate allegations of police abuse in a timely and transparent way.**