

Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 35th Session

Universal Periodic Review of Guinea-Bissau

Statement by Australia

24 January 2020

Thank you, [President/Vice President]

Australia acknowledges Guinea-Bissau's human rights challenges and welcomes its active engagement in the UPR process.

Australia remains concerned by a lack of judicial independence and due process, and poor prison conditions.

Australia recommends that **Guinea-Bissau**:

1. Ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture.
2. Establish an independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles.
3. Take further action to enforce the ban on female genital mutilation (FGM) and criminalise the participation of medical professionals in acts of FGM.
4. Undertake specific measures to increase the reporting of all forms of violence and abuse against women and girls, including through the development of education campaigns, enhanced training for police and the judiciary and the provision of survivor support services.

[127 Words]