

## Human Rights Council – 38th Session

### High Commissioner Oral Update on Georgia Thursday 5 July

#### Australian Statement

Australia thanks the Deputy High Commissioner for her update on Georgia provided on 4 July.

Australia acknowledges the efforts of the OHCHR to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights in Georgia. We welcome efforts by the Government of Georgia to work with the OHCHR to bring national laws, policies and procedures in line with international human rights standards.

Australia notes the human rights concerns raised in the High Commissioner's 2017 report on *cooperation with Georgia*, including the need to investigate, prosecute and punish cases of torture and ill-treatment, and to improve access to economic and social rights for vulnerable people. We encourage the Government of Georgia to address these and other issues raised by the OHCHR.

Australia is concerned by the lack of information about the human rights situation in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali/South Ossetia. We support the OHCHR's call to the authorities in control in these two regions to grant immediate access to the OHCHR and other international and regional human rights mechanisms.

Australia is a strong and consistent supporter of Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We do not recognise the claims to independence of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali/South Ossetia.

**218 Words**