**Human Rights Council – 39th Session**

**28 September 2018**

**Statement at Action**

**Australian Statement**

**Syria**

**General Comment**

The human rights situation in Syria continues to be of great concern to the international community.

Australia joins with the Council in deploring the human rights violations and abuses and humanitarian crisis in Syria.

The Syrian authorities bear particular responsibility for the horrors they have inflicted on the Syrian people.

We call on all sides – especially the Syrian authorities – to cease violence against the Syrian people and engage in a genuine dialogue to reach a political solution.

The Human Rights Council must continue its efforts to maintain international attention on the human toll of the crisis, and to respond to the ongoing atrocities in Syria.

As this text also reflects, we are particularly concerned about the human rights situation and humanitarian access in areas that have recently come under the control of the Syrian authorities. We urge the authorities and their allies to ensure full and unhindered humanitarian access to all areas of Syria.

Australia strongly urges all members to support Resolution L.20 and to oppose the amendments that have been tabled.

*Delivered by Head of Mission, Sally Mansfield*