

Human Rights Council – 42nd session

Interactive Dialogue on the High Commissioner for Human Rights' report on Yemen

10 September 2019

Australian Statement

Australia thanks the High Commissioner and the Group of Eminent Experts for their report.

The conflict in Yemen continues to exact a devastating humanitarian toll. We welcome all efforts to increase transparency and accountability in the conflict and shed light on the humanitarian situation in Yemen.

Australia is deeply concerned by the alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law documented in the report. We acknowledge the disproportionate impact of these violations on women and girls.

Particularly concerning are reports of arbitrary detention, torture and sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination, and of indiscriminate targeting, resulting in significant civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure. Accountability for violations is essential to combat impunity and to secure a durable peace.

Australia renews its call on all parties to the conflict to fulfil their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including in relation to ensuring the protection of civilians and access for humanitarian organisations.

While Australia welcomes the improvement in humanitarian access due to the relative peace in Hodeidah, we note that humanitarian agencies continue to face unacceptable restrictions, particularly in the north.

We share the concerns of the Group of Eminent Experts at the slow progress in implementing the Stockholm Agreement and restate our call on all parties to the conflict to engage constructively with the UN Special Envoy for Yemen to reach a lasting political settlement.

235 Words