

Human Rights Council – 42nd session

General Comment at Action

HRC42 Resolution on Marking the twenty-fifth anniversary
of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Australia thanks the Core Group for presenting this resolution ‘Marking the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action’ at the Human Rights Council.

This Council has consistently recognised the ongoing need for the global community to do more to ensure equal enjoyment of human rights by women and girls, and this resolution draws an important link in this regard to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and outcome documents of its review conferences.

Australia consistently calls for the full and effective implementation of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Program of Action, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their subsequent reviews.

This is a priority for us because, while this platform of conferences, review processes and instruments have driven strong progress, much remains to be done to realise women and girls’ rights fully.

The Beijing +25 anniversary is a compelling opportunity to redouble our commitment to gender equality. We must ensure that the protection and promotion of human rights of all women and girls - including their sexual and reproductive health and rights - continues to progress in accordance with the ICPD Program of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and the related Sustainable Development targets.

If we fail to seize these opportunities, we will not just be debating the same issues in another 25 years, we will have failed entire generations of women and girls. This would be an unacceptable outcome.

Australia is therefore pleased to support this resolution and thanks the Core Group for emphasising the important link between Beijing +25 anniversary and the work of the Human Rights Council.

(283 words)