Human Rights Council – 37th Session

Clustered Interactive Dialogue on joint study on transitional justice with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence and Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide
2 March 2018

Australian Statement

We thank the Special Adviser and Special Rapporteur for their comprehensive study, and particularly thank the Special Rapporteur for completing his part during a time of personal difficulty.

Effective prevention of conflict and human rights violations is essential to peacebuilding, transitional justice arrangements, non-recurrence, and the implementation of the SDGs, in particular Goal 16.

Australia supports the Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes and is a strong supporter of, and advocate for, the Responsibility to Protect. We recognise the fundamental responsibility of states to protect their populations from mass atrocity crimes. The international community should assist states to meet this responsibility.

We agree that the UN system can play a privileged role in the development of a comprehensive atrocity prevention framework. Geneva institutions can, and should, play an active part.

The Human Rights Council and its various mechanisms, such as the Universal Periodic Review and the Special Procedures, play an essential role monitoring, reporting and advising on thematic and country human rights issues. They strengthen accountability, advocate for inclusive institution-building at the national level, and provide early warning of possible atrocity crimes.

We must be more effective in translating these early warning signals into action, through implementable recommendations and quick Council responses to reports of deteriorating human rights situations.

We would be interested in your views on how we can best ensure that Geneva and New York's efforts are complementary and build on the work of the joint study, including to avoid what the study calls the "siloization" of knowledge and expertise? Thank you.

Words 254