

23 March 2009

Human Rights Council – Dialogue on Expert Mechanism with Indigenous Peoples

Statement of Australia

Thank you Mr President,

Australia welcomes the report of the first session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and we congratulate the Chairperson-Rapporteur, John Henriksen, on his appointment.

Australia welcomes the practical focus of the Expert Mechanism and we look forward to future engagement with this body on issues that will advance the protection and promotion of indigenous rights.

Australia was especially pleased to have been able to contribute to the study on lessons learned and the remaining challenges in achieving the implementation of the right of indigenous peoples to education. Australia considers that this is an important field in which we have considerable experience.

We welcome the opportunity to share our knowledge with other countries.

Thank you.