

## Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – 12th Session

### Item 8: Dialogue - UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Annual report on theme of Recognition, reparations, reconciliation

#### FINAL Australia Statement checked against delivery

**Delivered by: Michelle Craigie, National Indigenous Australians Agency**

Thank you Chair.

Australia welcomes the draft report of the Expert Mechanism on good practices and lessons learned regarding efforts to achieve the objectives of the Declaration, with a focus on recognition, reparations and reconciliation.

Paragraph 21 recognises Australia's commitment to recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our Constitution.

More work is needed, through consultation and co-design, on what model to take to a referendum and what a voice to parliament would be, and we acknowledge this reference in this same paragraph.

While this national work is underway, the Commonwealth is working with Indigenous Australians, creating partnerships built on genuine respect and inclusion to drive social and economic empowerment.

Australia's submission to the Expert Mechanism outlined the Closing the Gap refresh process as a demonstration of how we are building new pathways for Indigenous Australians to be included in decisions and policies which affect them.

2019 began a ten-year partnership agreement between all Australian governments and Indigenous Australian representatives, and established the historic Joint Council on Closing the Gap. The Joint Council brings together Indigenous representatives of peak organisations and Ministers from all levels of government.

It recognises Indigenous Australians as equal partners at the table, to finalise targets and monitor commitments under the Closing the Gap framework.

This action demonstrates the Australian Government's commitment to lead national efforts to develop shared solutions by working in partnership with Indigenous Australians, and we seek consideration of including this example in your final report.

Thank you.