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## Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples – 9th Session 11-15 July 2016

### Australia Statement on Item 7: The Sustainable Development Goals and the rights of indigenous peoples

Australia is pleased that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has an overarching focus on ‘leaving no one behind’, reducing inequalities and promoting social inclusion and human rights, issues which are particularly pertinent for indigenous peoples in Australia and across the world.

Australia is actively considering its domestic approach to implementation, and will align our coordination and reporting processes with the UN’s global review framework, once finalised. Australia will likely adopt a phased-approach to implementation to enable us to better leverage existing structures where appropriate.

Australian State and Territory governments are responsible for delivering many of the SDG-related services impacting on Indigenous Australians. Therefore delivering against the Sustainable Development Goals will require a partnership between different levels of government in Australia and with Indigenous Australians.

Australia already has strong structures and frameworks for collecting and assessing data about issues facing Indigenous Australians across all levels of government.

Australia’s peak intergovernmental forum - the Council of Australian Governments - agreed in 2008 to six ambitious targets to ‘Close the Gap’ in disadvantage faced by Indigenous Australians. These include life expectancy, child mortality, education and employment. A new target about school attendance was added in 2013.

The Closing the Gap targets are consistent with SDGs 3, 4 and 8.

The Closing the Gap framework enables all jurisdictions of government in Australia to work towards the same objectives, under a single performance plan with common indicators and measures of success, and under a unified reporting structure.

Australia will likely review our existing reporting structures, such as Closing the Gap, to identify potential opportunities for collecting and reporting data against the Sustainable Development Goals too.