



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail UN.Geneva@dfat.gov.au

Chemin des Fins 2, Petit Saconnex, 1211 Geneva 19 Ph.+41 22 799 9100 Fax +41 22 799 9175 www.geneva.mission.gov.au

## **Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

### **Tenth Session 10-14 July 2016**

#### **Australia Statement on Item 5: Interactive dialogue with national human rights mechanisms and similar mechanisms**

**Tuesday 11 July 1000-1300**

Australia acknowledges the vital work undertaken by national human rights mechanisms around the world, and their defence and promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples.

In Australia, we are proud that for the first time, an Indigenous woman has been appointed to the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner. June Oscar is an outstanding advocate for the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women.

The position of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner was created in 1992 as a response to the extreme social and economic disadvantage faced by Indigenous Australians. Social justice is about making sure that all peoples have choices about how they live, and the means to make those choices.

The Australian Human Rights Commission reviews the impact of laws and policies on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, reporting on indigenous social justice and land rights and promotes an indigenous perspective on issues. In addition, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner monitors the enjoyment and exercise of human rights for Indigenous Australians. The Commissioner produces an annual Social Justice and Native Title Report. These reports are tabled in the Australian Parliament.

Australia recognises that it is essential that governments and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples work together to achieve the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. And we are doing this.

We are working in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative bodies and with the Australian Human Rights Commission to take stock of the current standing of our policies in relation to the principles of the Declaration and how we can deepen this awareness across governments, communities and civil society.



AUSTRALIAN MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

E-mail [UN.Geneva@dfat.gov.au](mailto:UN.Geneva@dfat.gov.au)

Chemin des Fins 2, Petit Saconnex, 1211 Geneva 19 Ph +41 22 799 9100 Fax +41 22 799 9175 [www.geneva.mission.gov.au](http://www.geneva.mission.gov.au)

The Expert Mechanism, working with national human rights institutions, will assist Member States to further achieve the ends of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

We welcome any practical advice from the Expert Mechanism on how national human rights institutions and governments can work together to benefit indigenous peoples.