



AUSTRALIA



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UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

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Statement by H.E. Dr Fiona Webster, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations

Check against delivery

Thank you.

Australia recognises the value of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development to advance the rights of Indigenous peoples and promote peaceful and inclusive societies.

Australia is committed to empowering Indigenous Australian leadership in all aspects of decision making in the policies and programs that affect their lives.

As announced at the 2019 Forum, Australia has a historic formal ten-year partnership agreement between all levels of government and the Coalition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peaks Organisations, which represents over 50 community-controlled organisations. The partnership embodies the belief of its signatories that shared decision making with

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is essential to advance the rights and aspirations of Indigenous Australians. The agreement is a commitment to self-determination.

The new National Agreement on Closing the Gap between all levels of government and the Coalition of Peaks came into effect on 27 July 2020. The National Agreement outlines the reforms needed to guide coordinated efforts to improve the economic, health, safety and education outcomes of Indigenous Australians.

At the centre of the National Agreement are four Priority Reforms that focus on changing the way governments work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Priority Reforms will:

- Strengthen and establish formal partnerships and shared decision-making
- Build the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector
- Mainstream government organisations so they work better for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- Improve and share access to data and information to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to make informed decisions.

The National Agreement meets Australia's commitment to support both the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development by using a consultative, collaborative partnership approach, and valuing co-design to deliver on social and economic rights for Indigenous Australians. [Word count: 286]