**High-level interactive dialogue: Accelerating implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action: exchange of best practices in preparation for the Beijing+25 review and appraisal**

Wednesday 13th March 2019

Location: Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters

Role: Attend and make 3 minute intervention

**Intervention – Kate Jenkins (3 min)**

* Thank you Chair. It is a great pleasure to be here today and engage in this high-level interactive panel discussion.
* I warmly welcome the opportunity as a member of a National Human Rights Institution to address this meeting and note that this is the third year that National Human Rights Institutions have had an invitation to speak.
* It is vitally important that National Human Rights Institutions have equal participation and registration rights at CSW, independent of government and NGOs, as we do at the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly and other UN fora and we sincerely hope that this can be achieved in the near future.
* The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action envisioned gender equality in all dimensions of life— almost 25 years on and no country has yet achieved this agenda. In the 2030 Agenda, gender equality is asserted as a fundamental human right and as a driver of progress across all development goals.
* It is therefore timely that we are here today to exchange best practices in accelerating and implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.
* The Australian Human Rights Commission undertakes a range of activities of crucial importance to implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, including conducting two major national consultations on gender equality: a National Inquiry into sexual harassment in Australian workplaces, and consultations with indigenous women and girls to understand their distinct needs.
* The 12-month National Inquiry, supported by the Australian Government, will consider the economic impact of sexual harassment, the drivers of these behaviours and the adequacy of the existing legal framework. We believe this is a world first in responding to the issue of workplace sexual harassment.
* The final report will be released in the second half of this year and will identify examples of existing good practice, and make recommendations for change, providing a way forward for preventing sexual harassment in the workplace.
* I am proud to share that the Commission has developed a range of resources designed to help promote diversity and prevent discrimination in workplaces and support women and girls. We also work with organisations and leaders across sectors to provide education and support them in their efforts to achieve gender equality – one well-known example is our work with the Australian Defence Force.
* Implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action calls for concerted, coordinated and sustained efforts. As the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action approaches, it remains clear that there is still much more work to be done. That said, Beijing+25 also provides new opportunities to reconnect, regenerate commitment and utilise partners such as National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs).
* I would welcome reflections by the panellists on what opportunities they see for NHRIs to engage in the 2020 review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and how NHRIs can be seen as a key partner in advancing the rights of women and girls.