

## **51<sup>st</sup> Commission on Population and Development: Australian Explanation of Position**

Mr Chairman, my delegation would like to express our gratitude to you and to the facilitator from South Africa, for all of your hard work during the course of the Commission.

We acknowledge that was going to be very difficult to get a successful outcome on the theme of ‘sustainable cities, human mobility and international migration’ – particularly in the context of on-going negotiations for a Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (or GCM).

We reiterate the centrality of the ICPD and sexual and reproductive health and rights to development, and the importance of upholding commitments we have all made in this respect. We align ourselves with the cross-regional statement, delivered by Tunisia.

On migration, Australia was not going to be able to support draft OP16 given that, in drawing on multiple paragraphs from the 2017 Commission on the Status of Women’s agreed conclusions document (CSW61), OP16 conflated a range of issues that had been dealt with separately in CSW61 – including issues currently being negotiated within the GCM.

We were also concerned by references in the text calling upon ‘states’ rather than ‘member states’. There is strong and long-standing precedent for the use of ‘Member States’ in these types of resolutions as the ECOSOC and its main committees address Member States – individual resolutions are not the place to introduce new formulations in an attempt to set a precedent.