



No: RFI-0100-002
11 April 2026

Subject: Request for Clarification Regarding Australia's Vote in Favour of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the UN Committee for Program and Coordination

To:

Senator the Hon Penny Wong
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Wong,

I am writing to respectfully request clarification regarding Australia's recent vote at the United Nations concerning the participation of the Iranian government in the UN Committee for Program and Coordination, a body involved in shaping policies related to women's rights and counter-terrorism.

Australian leaders, including yourself, have consistently affirmed that Australia stands with the people of Iran, particularly those who have courageously risked their lives in pursuit of human rights, freedom, and justice. In light of these commitments, this vote has raised significant concern among members of the Iranian-Australian community and broader human rights advocates.

It is my understanding that Australia supported the inclusion of the Iranian government in a committee whose work directly relates to women's rights and the prevention of terrorism. Given the widely documented human rights violations in Iran, particularly against women

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and peaceful protesters, many within the community are seeking to understand how this decision aligns with Australia's stated commitment to human rights and democratic values.

As President of Rise for Iran, and on behalf of many who advocate for accountability and justice, I would greatly appreciate clarification on the reasoning behind this vote and how it reflects Australia's broader foreign policy principles.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.
Yours sincerely,

Omid Rokni
President, Rise for Iran

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