Greetings

I am an Australian citizen [redacted] and would like to offer the following points regarding your white paper:

a) Australia should see itself as a bridging power which can bring consensus rather than be perceived as partisan. We have a unique situation in global affairs given our geography and demographics. Thus in locations such as West Asia where we have diplomatic relations with countries such as Iran, we should use this diplomatic capital to advance positive engagement. Similarly, the positive relations Australia has with both India and Pakistan should be used as a means of encouraging peace in South Asia. This is particularly in Australia's strategic interests as the largest cohort of skilled migrants to Australia is currently from India.
b) Given international security threats which ensue from perceived biases in foreign policy, Australia should make an additional effort to come across as supportive of peace processes in locations such as Kashmir, rather than a detached observer. This would not mean taking a particular position towards the conflict resolution outcome but being an active supporter of peace processes insofar as even offering to convene regional forums in this regard through our membership in various regional organizations.
c) Australia should join the African Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. Our lack of engagement in these institutions (Which would be at marginal cost) is particularly a problem for Australian companies that operate in these areas of global resource endowments.
d) Australia should join the Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Metals and Sustainable Development. Its absence from this institution is seen by Canada as a snub and a competitive attitude which is not helpful to global efforts at improving resource governance which is in Australia's best interest as a global mineral power.

I would be happy to elaborate on these points further if needed

Thanks for considering my submission

Kind regards

Saleem H. Ali, Ph.D.
[redacted]