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Italian intervention

UPR – SOUTH AFRICA

(31/05/2012)

Thank you, Madame President.

We thank the distinguished delegation of South Africa for its participation and the informative national report. This document gives an honest and transparent overview of the developments since the last review in 2008, the results obtained, the new institutions in charge of human rights, the remaining challenges and the key national priorities. We welcome the firm commitment of the government to meet the Millennium Development Goals and attain food security for its people. Italy believes that this commitment is genuine and encourages South Africa to pursue the advancement of human rights and fundamental freedoms with renewed determination and strength after this second UPR, in particular with reference to MDGs 4 on child mortality, number 5 on maternal mortality and 6 on the fight against HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Furthermore, we commend South Africa for having successfully pushed through, during the 17th session of the Human Rights Council, the adoption of the first-ever, ground-breaking UN resolution on sexual orientation and gender identity.

We have one question and one recommendation in connection with women's rights. Female genital mutilations are reported to be practiced within certain migrant communities in South Africa. What are the measures taken against this phenomenon ?

We welcome the adoption of the « 365-day National Plan of Action to end gender violence ». Italy recommends to step up efforts against sexual violence and to improve social support services to victims.

I thank you, Madame President