

Italian intervention**UPR – PAKISTAN
(26/10/2012)**

Thank you, Madame President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Pakistan.

Italy commends the Pakistani Authorities for the firm and unanimous condemnation of the attack of October 9th against the young activist Malala Yousafzai. We also welcome the recent ratification of important Human Rights treaties and the maintenance of the *de facto* moratorium of capital punishment.

We strongly encourage Pakistan in this direction, as we remain concerned about widespread violations of fundamental human rights in the Country.

In particular, we **recommend** Pakistan to increase action to tackle violation of religious freedom especially, but not only, against members of religious minorities. As a first step, we **recommend** to substantially re-consider the punishment related to religious offenses. We trust that the new Ministry of National Harmony will be provided with sufficient means to fulfill its mission of raising the culture of tolerance and respect.

Also, we **recommend** Pakistan to establish an independent National Commission on the Rights of Children with adequate resources to carry out its tasks

Last but not least, we **recommend** Pakistan to repeal all provisions providing for mandatory death sentences with a view to abolishing them, and to ensure that women are not submitted to illegal parallel judicial system.

I thank you Madame President

H. E. Ambassador
Laura Mirachiam