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UPR – ZAMBIA (30/11/2012)

Thank you, Madame President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Zambia led by H.E. Mr. MUSA Mwenye, Minister of Justice and thank for the national report and the presentation today.

Italy welcomes the ongoing *de facto* moratorium on executions and recommends that Zambia takes into consideration the possibility to establish a *de jure* moratorium, with a view to abolishing the death penalty. Furthermore, Italy recommends Zambia to consider acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

In the national report Zambia recognizes that over-crowding in prisons is still an unresolved issue, despite measures undertaken after the first UPR. The Committee against Torture has reiterated several concerns, regarding, inter alia, the lack of hygiene and adequate food. Therefore, Italy recommends Zambia to step up its efforts to address over-crowding in correctional facilities and to improve sanitary conditions in these centers. Furthermore, Italy recommends Zambia to pay attention to the re-habilitation of prisoners.

CEDAW has raised concerns in relation to art. 23.4 of the Constitution which permits discriminatory practices emanating from customary law, in such areas as property rights and inheritance. Italy recommends Zambia to remove from the final version of the new Constitution all references to "^{traditions} ~~traditions~~" or customary laws, in the field of family and private law, which may be conducive to violations of human rights.

A Freedom of Information Bill has not been adopted so far. We would kindly ask the distinguished delegation to elaborate further on this topic and to provide information also on the Non-Governmental Organizations Act, which has been criticized for creating a restrictive regulatory regime for NGOs.

I thank you, Madame President.

Roberto Nocella
Counsellor