

Italian intervention

UPR – Barbados
(25/01/2013)

Thank you, Mister President.

We welcome the distinguished members of delegation of Barbados.

Italy values how Barbados protects the fundamental political and civil rights, such as the freedom of expression, association and assembly, and appreciates the high degree of independence of its judicial system.

However, we remain deeply concerned by the reports on widespread abuses against women and children, especially in domestic context. To tackle this problem, it is crucial – in our view - to prevent the dissemination of any expression of culture of violence and contrast violent environment, also by taking position against the practice of corporal punishment in family and school. While we commend Barbados for all the efforts deployed to fight against domestic violence, Italy **recommends**:

- to prohibit corporal punishment in family and school;
- to accelerate the adoption of the Employment Sexual Harassment Bill;
- to address the gaps of the legislation on domestic violence identified by the Committee established by the Bureau of Gender Affairs;
- to devote more resources to the protection of women and children from domestic violence and any other kind of abuses.

Regarding death penalty, we take note with appreciation that no execution has been carried out in Barbados since 1984. Bearing in mind what Barbados stated during its first review, Italy suggests the following **recommendations**:

- to take action to promote and increase the opportunities for public and open debates on death penalty;
- to speed-up the abolition of the mandatory death penalty in line with the commitment taken by Barbados during the first UPR.

Furthermore, Italy would like to reiterate its **recommendation** that Barbados consider the adoption of a de jure moratorium on executions with a view to abolish death penalty.

I thank you, Mister President