

Check against delivery

Italian intervention

**UPR – Serbia
(30 /01/2013)**

Thank you, Mister President.

Italy welcomes the distinguished members of the delegation of Serbia and commends Serbia for the important improvements achieved in the protection of human rights since the last review.

Notwithstanding several legislative reforms to enhance the judiciary capacity, we encourage Serbia to consider some areas of concern that still remain, including on the extent of political influence as well as the parliament's power to appoint judges and prosecutors. Which measures does Serbia envisage to take in order to face the remaining weaknesses?

Commending Serbia for the measures taken to fight against discrimination, Italy notes that some acts based on prejudice do not receive appropriate responses. In this regard, Italy **recommends** Serbia to expand its intervention with the aim of better addressing racial prejudices, xenophobia, hate speeches and other forms of discrimination, in particular against Roma, women, persons with disabilities and LGBT population.

We also urge Serbia to take action to remove those obstacles which may hamper equality in the enjoyment of freedom of religion, such as the ambiguous distinction between “traditional” and other religions.

Italy expresses appreciation for the measures taken to improve the condition of Roma people. While we remain concerned about extreme poverty and social exclusion affecting this group, we would be pleased to have more information on the contents of the 2012 – 2014 Action Plan for the Implementation of the Strategy for the Advancement of the Status of the Roma and the obstacle which still impede its adoption.

Finally, we note that there is still work to do to prevent and punish episodes of sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution and pornography, also by enlarging compensations and services for the victims of such illicit activities.

I thank you, Mister President