***Check against delivery***

**Italian intervention**

**UPR – Romania**

**( 22 /01/2013)**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Italy warmly welcomes the distinguished members of the delegation of Romania.

We welcome the national report and the progress achieved by Romania in the protection of human rights by Romania. Italy thanks Romania for the extensive information on the numerous measures taken to fight discrimination in general and improve the condition of Rom minorities in particular. Commending Romania for all these efforts, we would be pleased to know further details on:

* the innovations introduced with the 2012-2020 National Strategy for the inclusion of the Romanian citizens belonging to Roma minority; the present and future resources allocated to put into practice the Strategy; the mechanism of coordination among the different Authorities with competence to fight discrimination.

We remain deeply concerned about the condition of the vulnerable children in Romania. Italy **recommends** that further efforts be deployed to assure that the respect of fundamental rights of the child and the fight against violence, sexual exploitation, human trafficking, child labour and any other form of child exploitation remain a priority of the Government. We also **recommend** to take effective measures to remove the obstacles for vulnerable children to accede to quality education.

Finally, Italy **recommends** that Romania take action to facilitate a prompt and consensual solution to the issue of the restitution to religion Institutions of worship places confiscated under the communist regime, as a way of assuring the full enjoyment of the freedom of religion in the Country.

I thank you Mr. President