

<<<Check against delivery

Italian intervention

**UPR – Azerbaijan
(30/04/2013)**

Thank you, Mister President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Azerbaijan.

Italy welcomes the establishment of a new Focal Point for Human Rights within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as a sign of engagement ~~with the International Community~~ in the protection of human rights. This notwithstanding we note that several areas of concern, already raised during the first UPR, still remain.

In particular, Italy **recommends** Azerbaijan:

- To ensure the full exercise of freedom of expression for independent journalists and media, inter alia by taking into due consideration the recommendations of the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- To redouble its efforts to guarantee the freedom of association, also by improving the environment for NGOs to carry out freely their activities.

While commending the initiatives taken to promote religious dialogue, and following ~~OUR~~ ~~its~~ recommendation proposed in the first cycle of UPR, Italy **recommends** Azerbaijan to increase its action aimed at ensuring the promotion of freedom of religion for all confessions throughout the Country.

Italy appreciates the advanced legislative framework regarding women's rights in Azerbaijan. However, Italy would like to **recommend** to take further measures to develop an effective implementation and monitoring mechanism of the law on domestic violence, in particular to grant access to justice for women victims of violence and guarantee their protection.

I thank you, Mr. President