

Italian intervention**UPR – Uzbekistan
(24/04/2013)**

Thank you, Mister President.

Italy cordially welcomes the distinguished delegation of Uzbekistan.

Italy recognizes the progress made by Uzbekistan in promoting and protecting human rights and encourages the Country to proceed along this path, in a spirit of cooperation with the international community. Italy welcomes the initiatives undertaken to contrast child labour and, looking forward to knowing the results achieved by the programme for on-site monitoring, encourages the Country to enhance its commitment in this field.

Italy would like to draw attention on the following issues:

- Recalling our recommendation submitted during the first UPR cycle, Italy **recommends** that Uzbekistan reflect on how to revise its legislation in order to better protect freedom of religion or belief for all individuals and groups without discrimination, in full compliance with art. 18 of ICCPR;
- Concerning freedom of expression, Italy **recommends** that Uzbekistan enhance its efforts to create an environment in which journalists, human rights defenders and NGOs can freely operate according with international standards;

To conclude, could Uzbekistan provide (further) information on how it intends to tackle the frequent cases of violence against women (including domestic violence) and specify whether specific measures to assist and protect victims have been envisaged?

I thank you, Mr. President