

Italian intervention**UPR – Central African Republic
(25/10/2013)**

Thank you, Mister President.

Italy welcomes the delegation of the Central African Republic.

Italy is well aware of the difficult situation which the C.A.R. is currently facing and, for this reason, highly values the commitment expressed by such a distinguished delegation here today. We strongly believe that impunity for those responsible of violence should not be tolerated, and sectarian and religious-motivated violence in the whole country should be actively discouraged. In this framework, Italy warmly welcomes the C.A.R.'s appeal to the International Community to help the Government to restore minimal security conditions in the country and strengthen its national institution for the protection and promotion of human rights. Indeed, one month ago, Italy resolutely co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution on the establishment of an independent expert to assist the C.A.R. in the field of human rights.

Mr. President, Italy would like to propose to the C.A.R. the following three recommendations. Italy **recommends** that the C.A.R., in its future decision and action, give priority to human rights, especially with regard to the most vulnerable categories, such as women and children. More in details, Italy **recommends** that further efforts be deployed in order to prevent and punish grave forms of violence against women, in particular when they result in widespread rape.

Finally, expressing its utmost concern for the proven involvement of children in the armed conflict, Italy **recommends** that the C.A.R. adopt without delay proper measures aiming to ensure the immediate release of all children-soldiers and tackle this very grave breach of human rights as a high priority.

I thank you, Mr. President