

Check against delivery

**Italian intervention**

**UPR – Jordan  
(24/10/2013)**

Thank you, Mister President.

Italy thanks the Jordan delegation for its comprehensive report and presentation today.

Italy expresses its appreciation for the constitutional amendments adopted in 2011, as they represent a major step forward in the field of protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Italy encourages Jordan to increase its efforts to modify the relevant legislation accordingly.

In particular, Italy acknowledges the important progress made by reforming art.8 of the Constitution, which preserves personal freedom from arbitrary detention and prohibits torture in any form. In appreciating the measures taken to restrict the use of pre-trial detention, Italy would be interested to know whether Jordan envisages reforms to limit or abolish the use of administrative detention. In this regard, Italy **recommends** that Jordan take measures aiming at further ensuring for the administrative detainees, duly supported by legal assistance, their right of taking proceedings before a court to challenge the lawfulness of their detention. Furthermore, in line with Jordan's longstanding strong cooperation with international institutions, Italy **recommends** that Jordan consider positively to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

To conclude, Italy deems that the recent ban on nearly 300 websites, pursuant to recent legal amendments, may be not consistent with Jordan's genuinely commitment to freedom of expression and information. Consequently, Italy proposes to Jordan the following **recommendation**: to start a dialogue with relevant stakeholders and civil society with a view to revise the Press and Publications Law and its last amendments, adopted in September 2012.

I thank you, Mr. President