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Italian intervention

**UPR – Senegal
(21/10/2013)**

Thank you, Mister President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Senegal.

Italy commends Senegal for its advancement in the protection and promotion of human rights, as testified, inter alia, by the Ibrahim Index of African Governance acknowledging Senegal's positive trend throughout the last 3 years.

In particular, Italy praises Senegal for its efforts in promoting the rights of women and women empowerment. In this regard, we would be interested to learn further information about recent or ongoing legislative reforms aiming at tackling gender discrimination. While commending its commitment in fighting against FGM, Italy would appreciate if Senegal could share further details on the second national action plan to eliminate excision, particularly on the initiatives to monitor such a plan and the resources allocated for its implementation.

Welcoming the programme of educational scholarships for girls to address early and forced marriages, Italy strongly **recommends** Senegal to redouble its efforts to improve the enforcement of the minimum legal age for marriage, and remove discrimination based on gender in this respect.

Finally, Italy would appreciate if Senegal could provide information on which additional measures it has envisaged with the aim of regulating Koranic schools in line with minimum standards of protection across the country, and to eradicate child panhandling, having noted last April's sub-regional meeting on this issue.

Thank you, Mr President