

Check against delivery

Italian intervention

**UPR – Afghanistan
(27/01/2014)**

Thank you, Mr. President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Afghanistan.

Italy appreciates the efforts undertaken by Afghanistan to increase the respect and protection of human rights, especially when considering the numerous challenges that Afghanistan is facing.

However, Italy would like to suggest the following **recommendations** concerning the condition of women:

- revise the legislation related to child marriage and the legal age of marriage consistently with international standards, with the aim of both harmonizing the legal framework by eliminating the co-existence of different prescriptions in Civil Law and in Shari'a regulations, and preventing the practice of early and forced marriages;
- take further steps to ensure full implementation of the ERAW (Elimination of Violence Against Women) law, also taking into account the respect of the provisions contained into international treaties that Afghanistan has signed;
- ensure a closer monitoring of the implementation of NAPWA (National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan), by developing the monitoring & evaluation capacity of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and other national entities.

Concerned by the reports on frequent use of torture and ill-treatments, Italy would like to **recommend** Afghanistan to deploy any possible additional effort to prevent cases of torture and ill-treatments and to prosecute perpetrators. Moreover, Italy **recommends** that Afghanistan takes into due consideration the possibility to adopt soon a moratorium of capital executions, with a view to abolish the death penalty.

Italy welcomes the ratification by Afghanistan of the ILO Conventions related to child labor. However, noting the high percentage of children employed in different sectors, including in those considered hazardous, Italy would like to know how Afghanistan intends to implement the Conventions, and whether particular measures in the field of education have been envisaged to tackle child labor at its very roots.

I thank you, Mr. President

Counsellor Paolo Cucchi
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