

Check against delivery

Italian intervention

**UPR – Cyprus
(04/02/2014)**

Thank you, Mr. President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Cyprus and we thank them for the comprehensive report provided. Italy deeply appreciates the work done by the authorities of Cyprus to implement the recommendation received and accepted during the first cycle of the UPR.

Italy welcomes in particular the initiatives adopted in order to contrast episodes of abuses and violence, especially sexual violence, on children. Italy **recommends** that efforts in the field of the protection of children be intensified and that Cyprus may soon ratify the Council of Europe's Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse and implement the provisions contained therein.

As far as the rights of women are concerned, Italy **recommends** that full and prompt implementation be given to those initiatives aimed at promoting an increased involvement of women in politics. Furthermore, Italy **recommends** that Cyprus may soon ratify the Council of Europe's Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. We welcome the overall measures taken so far in this field, that are particularly encouraging. Would it be possible in this regard to have any additional information on the preventive initiatives and assistance programs taken in the framework of the 2010-2013 National Action Plan for the Prevention and Combating of Domestic Violence?

I thank you, Mr. President