

Italian intervention

Check against delivery

**UPR – Viet Nam
(05/02/2014)**

Thank you Mr. President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Viet Nam, and we commend Viet Nam for the progresses achieved, especially as far as economic and social rights and education on human rights are concerned.

Appreciating its recognition by the Vietnamese Constitution, Italy **recommends** that Viet Nam adopt further measures aiming at better guaranteeing the freedom of religion, in particular by eliminating bureaucratic and administrative obstacles, which hinder the activities carried out by religious communities and groups.

Italy is aware that death penalty enjoys a general support by the Vietnamese public opinion. Being firmly convinced of the inhuman character of such a punishment, Italy **recommends** that Viet Nam considers at least further restricting the use of death penalty only to the most serious crimes as stated in art. 6 of ICCPR, with a view to soon adopt a de facto moratorium of executions.

Italy believes that civil society can give an important contribution to the fast development Viet Nam is experiencing. Welcoming the progresses achieved so far, Italy **recommends** that Viet Nam further implement measures aimed at promoting freedom of expression and association and freedom of the media, in line with the most advanced international standards.

Italy would also like to **recommend** that Viet Nam take into consideration the possibility to accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

We welcome Viet Nam's achievements in protecting the rights of the child and the wide scope of the National Program on Child Protection for 2011–2015, and would be interested in knowing about measures envisaged for combating trafficking and sexual abuses against children.

I thank you, Mr. President.