

**UPR – Albania
(April, 28th 2014)**

Thank you, Mister President.

Italy welcomes the distinguished delegation of Albania and thanks it for the comprehensive national report.

Italy welcomes the efforts that Albania has undertaken so far in order to improve the protection and promotion of human rights, both by strengthening the national legal framework and by ratifying the major international human rights instruments.

We particularly appreciate the commitment showed in enhancing the efficiency of the civil service and in fighting corruption. Italy **recommends** to continue strengthening the institutional and administrative capacities of the civil service while expanding the actions against corruption, especially in the healthcare, education and judiciary sectors.

Italy praises Albania for its noteworthy efforts in promoting the rights of women. We note that Albania was among the first members of the Council of Europe to ratify the Istanbul Convention and that important progress has been achieved in preventing violence against women. We **recommend** that the normative framework and the related policies aimed at preventing violence against women be fully implemented, in particular by addressing the factors which may still prevent women from filing complaints regarding episodes of violence. We also **recommend** to adopt and implement further measures in order to address the gender wage gap, improve women's access to entrepreneurship and ensure a balanced representation of women in the labour market.

As far as the recurrence of episodes of blood feud is concerned, Italy notes that the practice still has a negative impact particularly on the rights of children. Welcoming the willingness of Albania to contrast this negative legacy, also clearly demonstrated by the related amendments to the criminal code, Italy **recommends** to devote a primary attention to the protection of the children involved in episodes of blood feud, so to ensure the full protection and enjoyment of their rights.

I thank you, Mr. President.