

**Italian intervention**

**UPR – Bhutan  
(April, 30<sup>th</sup> 2014)**

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Thank you, Mister President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Bhutan and thank them for their presentation and report.

We appreciate the progress achieved by Bhutan since the first cycle of the UPR, and we particularly welcome the actions undertaken and the notable results achieved in the alleviation of poverty.

We take note of the explanation provided in the National Report concerning the reason why Bhutan is still not yet a Party to many international human rights instruments, and appreciate the commitment to continue to study and review them. Believing that these instruments provide an important incentive and guidance to further improve the national framework of promotion and protection of Human Rights in line with the most rigorous international standards, Italy **recommends** that Bhutan take into consideration the possibility to accede to the major international human rights treaties, including the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

We appreciate the commitment showed by Bhutan regarding the rights of the child, and in particular the ratification of the CRC and two of its Optional Protocols, as well as the actions undertaken to ensure the right of education. Noting that, despite being prohibited by law, child marriages still remain common, Italy **recommends** that further actions be undertaken in order to prevent child marriages.

Italy notes the relevant percentage of children employed as workers, in some cases even below the minimum working age allowed by the national legislation, especially in agriculture and the service industry. With the aim to prevent accidents and injuries, as well as any form of exploitation on children, Italy **recommends** that Bhutan increase its efforts to prevent unacceptable forms of child labor.

I thank you, Mr. President