

Italian intervention**UPR – Brunei Darussalam
(02/05/2014)**

Thank you, Mister President.

Italy welcomes the distinguished delegation of Brunei Darussalam and thanks for its participation in this UPR cycle.

Italy takes note with interest that, in 2012, the Penal Code was amended in order to strengthen the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual offences. Italy trusts that this is a first step to ensure full implementation of the ILO Convention No. 182, prohibiting the worst forms of child labor, and ratified by Brunei in 2008.

Italy shares the concerns raised by the forthcoming entry into force of the Syariah Penal Code Order. Italy **recommends** Brunei to ensure that the provisions and the application of the ^{Syariah} Penal Code Order remain in strict compliance with the human rights law, which includes the ban of any inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Italy is concerned by the severe restrictions posed to freedom of expression and freedom of the press, often based on an unduly notion of “maintenance of the public order”. Italy therefore **recommends** that Brunei amend the Sedition Act, the Local Newspapers Order and other relevant regulations to align itself with the international standards on freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

Italy notes that Brunei is not party to several international core treaties on human rights. Italy **recommends** that Brunei consider to accede to ICCPR, ICESCR, and the ICC Rome Statute by the next review.

I thank you