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Italian intervention

**UPR – Equatorial Guinea
(05/05/2014)**

Thank you, Mister President.

Italy welcomes the distinguished delegation of Equatorial Guinea and appreciates the attention paid, in the national report, to the recommendations accepted during the first cycle.

Welcoming the temporary amnesty to the death penalty and the progress towards the adoption of a moratorium of the executions, Italy urges Equatorial Guinea to abolish such a heinous punishment.

We remain concerned that, notwithstanding the measures taken, numerous cases of torture by police forces and ill-treatment of detainees are still reported. In this regard, Italy **recommends** Equatorial Guinea:

1. to increase efforts to prevent any abuse against people under police custody and improve the living condition of the detainees;
2. to consider releasing, on humanitarian grounds, the inmates whose detention condition puts at risk their health and life.

Italy also **recommends**:

1. to step up efforts to address the deep-rooted stereotypes that still have a negative impact on the rights of women, and fight against the heinous traditional practices such as early and forced marriages;
2. to adopt effective measures to prevent and punish episodes of harassment against journalists and human rights defenders, and ensure that nobody is arrested for exercising their right to freedom of expression.

I thank you