

Check against delivery

**Italian intervention**

**UPR – Qatar  
(May, 7<sup>th</sup> 2014)**

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Italy commends Qatar for the commitment demonstrated over the last years in the promotion and protection of human rights, and for the results achieved so far. We particularly appreciate the medium-term perspective that the Country has chosen to adopt by developing instruments like the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the related National Strategies, and by creating ad hoc institutions like the Qatar Foundation for Social Action and the National Committee for the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law.

Italy appreciates the measures already taken to reform the current sponsorship system and the ongoing debate regarding this issue. Especially in view of the implementation of the projects related to the FIFA 2022 World Cup, we **recommend** that the Authorities of Qatar may soon adopt a new Labour Law, or further emend the existing one, so to improve the conditions and rights of migrant and foreign workers.

We welcome the long-standing application by Qatar of a de facto moratorium on the use of capital punishment. Italy **recommends** that Qatar may soon consider the possibility to adopt a de jure moratorium on executions, with a view to abolish the death penalty.

Italy takes positive note of the importance attached by Qatar to the respect of freedom of expression and appreciates the progress already achieved, particularly for what concerns the current debate on a new Media Law and the increasing spaces granted to religious minorities to express their beliefs. Noting that there appear to be some residual restrictions to this freedom, Italy **recommends** that the Government of Qatar undertake any possible further action to align its national legislation with the most advanced international standards on freedom of expression.

I thank you Mr. President