

Italian intervention

**UPR – Gambia
(28/10/2014)**

Thank you, Mister President.

Italy welcomes the distinguished delegation of Gambia and very much appreciates its presence at the UPR session today.

Italy has noticed only minor progress in the areas touched upon in our recommendations during the first cycle: women rights, sexual orientation legislation, freedom of expression are still matter of great concern. Therefore Italy would like to follow-up our 2010 statement by **recommending** Gambia to:

- Adopt and implement an effective legislation aimed at banning female genital mutilation and punishing the perpetrators;
- Take all necessary measures, both legislative and educational, to eradicate negative stereotypes and attitudes towards women;
- Withdraw the criminal laws sanctioning homosexuality and take action to combat violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Concerned by the reported cases of threats and arrests of journalists, Italy reiterates its **recommendation** to promote and guarantee freedom of expression in compliance with the international standards.

While regretting the resumption of executions in 2012, we welcome the reestablishment of the moratorium later on. In this regard, Italy **recommends** that Gambia maintain the moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

I thank you