

Italian intervention

**UPR – Iraq
(November, 3rd 2014)**

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Thank you, Mister President.

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

Italy condemns the widespread killings and abuses of human rights perpetrated by ISIL and other associated armed groups. Italy supports the international endeavour to stop these atrocities and **recommends** that the Iraqi Government steps up its effort to protect human rights in the territory under its control, to prevent all abuses and to hold those responsible accountable.

As for the situation of ethnic and religious minorities, which the current crisis has contributed to deteriorate, Italy **recommends** to urgently adopt all the necessary measures to foster inclusive dialogue and provide minorities with adequate protection.

We appreciate the efforts directed at combating violence and discrimination against women, and in particular the criminalisation of FGM in the Kurdistan region in 2012 and the adoption of the National Strategy to Combat Violence against Women in 2013. Italy **recommends** Iraq to take proper measures to strengthen and enact the legislative framework aiming at protecting the rights of women, and to fully implement the CEDAW (Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women).

We understand that the draft Jaafari Personal Status Law was adopted by the previous Government and has been inherited by the current Parliament for approval. The draft law contains a number of provisions that contradict Iraq's efforts to uphold the rights of children and women. Italy therefore **recommends** that the Iraqi authorities take any proper measure in order to keep national legislation fully in line with international standards and obligations.

Italy notes with concern the high number of capital executions carried out in Iraq in the last four years and **recommends** that the Iraqi Government takes into serious consideration the possibility to introduce a de facto moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition.

I thank you