

ITALY

UPR 20th Session-(Geneva, 27.10-07.11.14)

Questions-Recommendations by Greece

22

Thank you Mr President,

Greece would like to warmly welcome the delegation of Italy to the 20th Session of the UPR Working Group. We express our appreciation for the country's efforts and impressive results in implementing the recommendations of the first cycle.

We welcome the positive developments since the first UPR cycle, including the provision of considerable financial and human resources in order to strengthen the legislative and institutional framework for the protection of human rights.

As to migration and related human rights issues, as a country also facing a huge migratory pressure, we fully understand the challenges which this phenomenon entails particularly for the countries of first entry. We wish to underline that this is a complex issue and in no way can be dealt with a short-sighted approach which narrows it down to the human rights obligations of a few receiving countries. Effective international and regional cooperation, as well as solidarity and burden sharing remain key factors for dealing efficiently with this issue, including its human rights dimension.

In this respect, we would like to request a short evaluation by the Italian Delegation of the Praesidium Project, in particular its human rights aspects, a project which is based on the cooperation of different international and national actors and is operating since 2012 in all reception centres.

We would also like to focus on the related, in a way, issue of human trafficking which is of major concern to all of our countries. In this connection, we would like to request more details on the implementation of both short term and long term programmes as referred to in Italy's national report.

Finally, we would like to congratulate once again Italy for its commitment to the UPR process and the effective implementation of the recommendations of the first cycle.