



Statement by H.E. Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva
at the the United Nations Human Rights Council –
20th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
ITALY
Geneva, 27 October 2014

Mr. President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of Italy on the occasion of the presentation of the second National Report to the Universal Periodic Review.

The Delegation of the Holy See acknowledges the progress made by Italy for strengthening the legislative and institutional frameworks for the protection and promotion of human rights, in particular the significant measures implemented to provide security, social services and integration for migrants and refugees, especially for those migrating from Northern Africa and the Middle East.

In fact, the search and rescue missions in the Mediterranean Sea, “Operation Mare Nostrum”, have been an excellent response on the part of the Italian government, saving the lives of well over 43,000 persons who brave the waters in search for a better future. The CARA reception centers and the Preasidium project are among the other commendable initiatives to provide for the protection and integration of the newcomers into society.

My Delegation wishes to present the following recommendations to the Delegation of Italy:

- Strengthen other efforts already in practice which provide life-saving assistance for migrants and to initiate the new “Fund on Asylum, Migration and Integration 2014-2020”.
- Adopt further legislative and educational measures that diminish economic inequality, joblessness and discrimination, especially for the Roma, Sinti and Travel communities.
- Provide follow up to the Convention on Action against Trafficking of Human Beings with a particular concern on unaccompanied minors.

Thank you Mr. President.