



UK Mission to the
United Nations
in Geneva

JAMES McLAUGHLIN.

77

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland

National Statement

Universal Periodic Review of Italy

October 2014

Thank you Mr President,

The United Kingdom welcomes Italy's firm commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. We commend Italy for its effort to support international human rights and build consensus on fundamental values within the UN multilateral system.

We welcome the development of Italy's Action Plan on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. We note the importance it places on the strengthening of the relationship between business and human rights and raising awareness of 'global value chains'.

The UK also welcomes the positive steps taken by the Italian Government to reduce the problem of prison overcrowding. We note the introduction of new legislation and measures that have allowed the Italian Government to reduce the number of detainees by over 20% and support Italy's intention to further reduce prison populations by the end of 2014.

The UK has **two recommendations**:

1. Review criminal and civil justice procedures in order to improve the efficiency of the judiciary with a view to significantly reducing the backlog before the courts, and the time taken for cases to be concluded, before its next Universal Periodic Review.
2. Ensure the equal rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people by legally recognising same-sex marriage and civil partnerships.