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*Review of Italy*  
*20<sup>th</sup> Session of the UPR*  
*Statement by Armenia*

Armenia warmly welcomes the delegation of Italy and thanks for the comprehensive national report. We commend Italy for the numerous legislative changes since its first UPR cycle directed towards further promotion of human rights in the country.

We welcome the policies of the promotion of the cultural and religious rights of national minorities, and for their integration into the Italian society. Armenia highly values the historical and friendly ties with Italy which led to the formation of the Armenian community that is actively involved in the cultural, social and economic life of the country. One example is San Lazzaro Island, which with its monastery, manuscripts, depository and publishing house is considered to be the cultural center of Armenians living in Italy.

Armenia also attaches high importance to combating human trafficking and we value Italy's efforts in this regard, particularly the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, the social protection programs for victims of trafficking and the international cooperation initiatives on the matter.

Armenia values the efforts Italy directs to the promotion of the rights of women, including combating domestic violence. We welcome the advancement of the rights of children, particularly their protection from exploitation and sexual abuse. We also highly appreciate expansion of education and training programs on human rights in the country, particularly in the field of anti-discrimination and combating hate crimes.

We recommend Italy

1. To further protect and promote the rights of minorities in the country
2. To continue its efforts directed towards fighting the trafficking of persons.

In conclusion, we wish Italy success in its Second Universal Periodic Review.