

Remarks by the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan

20th session of the WG on UPR

UPR of Italy

27 October 2014, Geneva

Mr. President,

Azerbaijan welcomes the Delegation of Italy and thanks the esteemed Delegation for the presentation of the national report.

We positively note the ratification of Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture by Italy, which was recommended by Azerbaijan and a number of different countries during the 1st cycle of UPR. At the same time, while commending the works done in order to establish the national human rights institution (*NHRI*) in line with the Paris Principles, **we recommend** Italy to increase its efforts in this regard.

We would like to state that the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and some UN treaty bodies have raised their concerns on the problems related to different forms of discrimination. In particular, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed concern at the policy of treating migrants and Roma as a security problem rather than as one of social inclusion. Furthermore, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (*CERD*) regretted the persistence of stereotypes associating ethnic minorities and non-citizens with criminality, and Islam with terrorism. In this regard, as it was raised by the *CERD* **we recommend** Italy to increase its efforts to prevent and combat racial and religious discrimination.

We also note that the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression stressed that all acts of intimidation and violence against journalists needed to be fully investigated. In this regard, **we recommend** Italy to investigate and prosecute all perpetrators of violence and intimidation crimes against journalists.

In conclusion, Mr. President, Azerbaijan appreciates the works done by the Government of Italy on the implementation of social protection programmes for victims of trafficking and in this regard, **recommends** taking further steps in order to strengthen the protection of victims of trafficking.

Thank you, Mr. President.