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20th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

(27 October- 7 November 2014)

Italy

Statement of the Kingdom of Bahrain

Monday, 27th October 2014

Bahrain wishes to welcome the distinguished delegation of Italy to this working group. We commend their thorough and well prepared national report and presentation today.

We note positively the achievements made by Italy since their first review and their continued efforts to promote and protect Human Rights on both national and international level. We recommend that Italy **expedite the creation of an independent national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles.**

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the adoption of the National Action Plan against Racism, Xenophobia and Intolerance, and urges the Italian government to *increase efforts to prevent and combat racial discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities.*

We note with concern the persistence of stereotypes, harmful practices and violence against women. We recommend the **adoption of a national strategy for the advancement of women, and end prevailing cultural stereotypes of the role of women in all fields.**

We welcome the efforts of Italy to combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and we urge Italy to *increase measures aimed at better prevention and protection for trafficking victims.*

Finally, we encourage the Italian Government to continue efforts towards the progress and development of the Italian society.

Thank you Mr. President.