

Check against delivery**Italian intervention****UPR – Kazakhstan
(30/10/2014)**

Thank you, Mister President.

Italy welcomes the delegation of Kazakhstan and thanks it for its presentation today.

*Read by the Deputy Minister of
Justice, Azhova*

Italy welcomes Kazakhstan's moratorium on death penalty since 2003 and commends Kazakhstan on its support for all previous UNGA resolutions in this area. We also appreciate the establishment of a national mechanism to prevent torture and the efforts aimed at promoting interfaith dialogue at national level.

However, in all those areas there are still issues which raise concern.

Italy would like to **recommend** Kazakhstan to:

- maintain the moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its abolition;
- accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR;
- increase efforts to ensure independent investigation of any allegation of torture and other ill-treatment in prisons, and prosecute those who have committed such crimes;
- take further action to prevent and tackle discrimination of religious minorities, also by revising the rules on registration of religious association, so that everyone can exercise their rights in an unrestricted manner

To conclude, Italy **recommends** Kazakhstan to ensure a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference, and increase measures to prevent attacks and violence against them.

I thank you