

Check against delivery

Italian intervention

**UPR – Madagascar
(3/11/2014)**

Thank you, Mister President.

Italy welcomes the delegation of Madagascar and thanks it for the national report and today's presentation.

Italy welcomes the steps taken for the reinstallation of the constitutional order and the positive trend towards the restoration of civil and political rights in the country. We appreciate the democratic nature of the elections held almost one year ago and the President's commitment to ensure respect for human rights. Italy trusts that the new political environment may facilitate the fight against poverty and the enjoyment for everyone of the economic, social, cultural rights, as well as the protection the most vulnerable categories of the population. While appreciating the ratification of several International Human Rights Treaties, Italy encourages Madagascar to ratify the remaining ones.

Italy would like to propose the following recommendations:

- to raise the age of completion of compulsory schooling, with a view to properly address the issue of child labour, and ensure that primary education be free of charge for everyone;
- to adopt further measures to prevent and contrast those practices – such as early and forced marriages, as well molestry – which have a negative impact on women empowerment;
- to approve – as a matter of priority - a bill punishing marital rape as an offence, and develop a national policy, that may include an operative plan and indicators, aimed at implementing the legislation on gender-related violence;
- to take into positive consideration the abolition of death penalty, or at least the adoption of a de jure moratorium on executions.

Italy warmly wishes Madagascar a successful and fruitful UPR.

I thank you