

Check against delivery

Italian intervention

**UPR – Armenia
(22 January 2014)**

Thank you, Mr. President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Armenia, and thank them for their presentation and report.

Italy commends Armenia for the progress achieved so far in the promotion and protection of human rights and welcomes the commitment to address existing shortcomings.

Taking note with appreciation of the ratification by Armenia of numerous HR instruments, Italy **recommends** to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, and to adopt all the required internal legislative measures to proceed as soon as possible with the ratification of Rome Statute of the ICC.

We welcome the measures taken to promote women's rights and gender equality, and we **recommend** that Armenia adopt comprehensive legislation to fight all forms of discrimination, in particular against women. We also **recommend** to take appropriate action to prosecute cases of domestic violence and to ratify the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

Italy also welcomes the progress achieved in the protection of the rights of the child, and the adoption of the "Strategic Program for the Protection of the Rights of the Child in the Republic of Armenia for 2013-2016" and of its Timetable of Measures. We **recommend** to enhance efforts to protect the rights of the child and to establish a system of juvenile justice in compliance with international standards.

Finally, we would like to encourage Armenia to ensure that civil society organisations are effectively consulted on all new reform proposals that may affect their activities.

I thank you.