

Check against delivery**Italian intervention**

**UPR – Lao PDR
(20 January 2014)**

Thank you, Mr. President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and thank them for their presentation and report.

Italy commends the Lao PDR for the progress achieved so far, and in particular for the signature and ratification of the Convention against Torture following the first UPR cycle, and for the adoption of legislative measures aimed at better applying and implementing human rights treaties' provisions.

As far as the accession to core human rights instruments is concerned, Italy **recommends** that the Lao PDR consider ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and establish an independent commission to carry out impartial investigations in a prompt, impartial and effective manner into the alleged cases of enforced disappearances reported in the Country. Italy further **recommends** to accede to the Rome Statute of the ICC and to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Court.

We welcome the de facto moratorium on the death penalty practiced by the Country. Taking note of the intention expressed in the national report of revising the penal law to be in full compliance with article 6 of the ICCPR, Italy **recommends** that the Lao PDR consider taking steps to formally establish a de jure moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to its legal abolition. Italy also **recommends** to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.

I thank you.