

Italian Intervention

Check against delivery

**UPR – BELARUS
(4 May 2015)**

Thank you Mr. President,

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

Italy appreciates the steps that Belarus has taken to improve national legislation with a view to applying best international practices and the recommendations of the international community. Moreover, Italy welcomes the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

In order to enhance the promotion and protection of human rights, Italy would like to make the following recommendations:

1. Introduce a moratorium on capital executions with a view to fully abolish the death penalty.
2. Sign and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.
3. Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and implement it into national law
4. Promptly and effectively investigate all allegations of torture and ill-treatment against prisoners and acts of intimidation, reprisals and threats against human rights defenders and journalists.
5. Enhance efforts to guarantee freedom of expression and association, and reform the existing legislation on freedom of information in accordance with international standards.

Thank you