

Simona Battilora (34)

Check against delivery

Italian intervention

**UPR – Liberia
4 May 2015**

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

First of all, Mr. President, let me express our solidarity to the Authorities and people of Liberia in the aftermath of the Ebola outbreak. We understand that the outbreak has affected the Country deeply, and would like to commend Liberia for its response to it, and for the progress achieved so far in the promotion and protection of human rights.

We welcome the de facto moratorium on death penalty and the fact that the National Human Rights Action Plan recognizes Liberia's obligation to abolish it. We therefore **recommend** Liberia to fully abolish the death penalty in accordance with the ratified Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

As far as gender based violence is concerned, Italy takes note with appreciation of the steps taken so far, and **recommends** to enhance efforts to fight all forms of discrimination against women and domestic violence, including by adopting new legislation to this effect and ensuring its effective implementation. Welcoming the position taken by the Government of Liberia on harmful traditional practices, and the involvement of traditional leaders in combating them, Italy also **recommends** to continue working to combat child, early and forced marriage, to legally prohibit female genital mutilations and to increase support to girls from the poorest households and rural areas who are reportedly more at risk of being subject to these practices.

We would also like to **recommend** Liberia to combat all forms of discrimination and abuse against LGBTI persons.

To conclude, Mr. President, we wish Liberia every success in its UPR.

I thank you.