

Check against delivery

**Italian intervention**

**UPR – Maldives  
6 May 2015**

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Italy welcomes the progress achieved so far, in particular in the field of education and health, and commends the Maldives for the achievement of MDGs 4, 5 and 6.

Italy takes note with appreciation of the engagement in strengthening the judiciary sector highlighted in the report, and would like to make the following **recommendations**:

1. Take all necessary steps to introduce a de jure moratorium on capital executions with a view to fully abolish the death penalty, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR.
2. Introduce the necessary legal and policy measures to abolish all forms of corporal punishments.
3. Take further steps to ensure the impartiality and independence of the judiciary in accordance with international standards.

As far as freedom of religion is concerned, Italy **recommends** to remove legal provisions that restrict the right to freedom of religion or belief, including Article 9(d) of the Constitution which bars non-Muslims from being Maldivian citizens. Italy also **recommends** to guarantee the right to manifest one's religion or belief.

To conclude, Mr. President, we wish the Maldives every success in this UPR cycle.

I thank you.