

Thank you, Mister President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Australia and thank them for their national report and presentation.

Italy welcomes the commitment of Australia to human rights. We note with appreciation the recent adoption of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking and Slavery 2015-19.

We also welcome the progress achieved in the protection of Indigenous people, (and the commitment to holding a referendum to recognize Indigenous Australians in the Constitution) and we **recommend** to continue ongoing efforts to close the gaps in opportunities between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians.

Italy would also like to make the following **recommendations**:

- Ratify the Optional Protocol to the CAT, the Optional Protocol to the CESCR and the Optional Protocol to the CRC on communications procedures.
- Review current immigration policies so to improve the rights of refugees and asylum seekers.
- Review the new federal Immigration laws so to take into consideration the humanitarian aspects of a possible expulsion of foreign citizens with permanent resident visas, especially if they who do not speak the language of their citizenship or have no longer connections with the country of origin of their family.

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by wishing Australia every success in its UPR.

I thank you.