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Italian intervention

**UPR – Georgia
(10 November 2015)**

Thank you, Mister President.

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

Italy commends Georgia for the measures taken since the first cycle of the UPR, and in particular for the adoption of a Human Rights Strategy and Action Plan. We also welcome the adoption of the Law on Gender Equality (2010) and the National Action Plan for 2013-2015 on the Elimination of Domestic Violence. With a view to strengthening the protection of women's rights, Italy **recommends** to ensure the effective investigation of episodes of violence against women and domestic violence, to bring perpetrators to justice and to provide victims with adequate compensation, protection and assistance. We also **recommend** to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence.

We take note with appreciation of the establishment of a State Agency for Religious Issues. Italy **recommends** to strengthen efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief and to protect the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including by adopting measures both to address episodes of intolerance and hate speech against religious minorities and to solve outstanding issues related to the ownership and maintenance of places of worship and properties belonging to religious minority groups.

We wish Georgia a successful UPR.

I thank you.