



*Permanent Mission of Italy to the
International Organizations in Geneva*

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**UPR – Greece
3rd May 2016**

Thank you, Mr. President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of Greece, and we would like to thank it for its national report and the presentation shared with us today.

Italy is aware of the difficult and fragile balance that Athens has to keep in order to satisfy the requirements and pass the reforms as agreed with the international creditors while mitigating their negative impact on the Greek society. Italy welcomes the steps undertaken by Greece to ensure the enjoyment of the economic, social and cultural rights notably by the most disadvantaged layers of the population. We encourage Greece to pursue its commitment to this end.

Being aware of the strong pressure faced by Greece due to its geographic position, Italy would like to commend both the Hellenic Coast Guard for rescuing at sea more than 100.000 refugees and migrants and the people of Greece, in particular those of the Eastern Aegean Greek Islands and the competent authorities, for the hospitality, solidarity and assistance extended to a huge number of refugees and migrants.

Italy welcomes the ratification by Greece of a significant number of Conventions since the last UPR and **recommends to ratify:**

- the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and

- the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence.

Thank you.