

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

*Check against delivery*

**UPR – Zimbabwe**

**2 November 2016**

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Italy welcomes the reviewed “National Gender policy” as a step forward towards international human rights standards. We **recommend** to enhance efforts to promote gender equality and combat all forms of discrimination, including those on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

We took note of the draft “National Child Rights Policy” and we **recommend** to fully implement the Constitutional provisions for the protection of the rights of the child, in line with the international standards, also in order to further reduce the practice of child, early and forced marriage.

Italy attaches great importance to the fundamental freedoms and **recommends** to review existing legislation in order to enhance the exercise of the freedom of assembly and of the press.

Taking into account that the Constitution of Zimbabwe provides for an absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Italy **recommends** to sign and ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as well as to consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

We wish Zimbabwe a successful UPR.

I thank you.