**U.S. Statement at the Universal Periodic Review of Italy**

**48th Session, 20 January 2025**

**As delivered by XX**

Thank you, Mr. [Vice] President.

The United States welcomes the delegation from Italy.

We commend the Italian government for introducing prison reforms to address critical issues such as overcrowding and mental health.

We recommend that Italy:

1. Take steps to reduce discrimination in public services, housing, and education for members of marginalized communities including LGBTQI+ persons, Roma, and persons with disabilities.
2. Ensure the protection of freedom of expression, including by repealing criminal penalties for defamation and blasphemy.
3. Increase funding and staff support for the Office of the Special Envoy on Human Trafficking Issues and empower it to lead an inter-ministerial policy review of Italy’s efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

I thank you.