

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

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**UPR 28– Guatemala**

**8 November 2017**

Thank you, Mr. President.

We welcome the distinguished members of the delegation of Guatemala and we thank them for their national report and today’s presentation.

Italy welcomes Guatemala’s commitment to the UPR and its efforts to improve the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. We particularly commend last positive developments in justice reform and appreciate the efforts to address violence against women and children.

Following the steps taken since its last UPR and considering the results achieved by Guatemala after its previous UPR rounds, Italy would like to seize this opportunity to recommend Guatemala to:

* *Consider to take steps with a view to abolishing the death penalty.*
* *Safeguard the activities of human rights defenders introducing national laws and policies to protect them.*
* *Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and children adopting comprehensive legislation and launching awareness-raising campaigns. Ensure that women victims of violence receive appropriate help and perpetrators are brought to justice.*

We wish Guatemala a successful UPR.

I thank you.