

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

*Check against delivery*

**UPR 28 – Republic of Korea**

**8 November 2017**

Thank you, Mr. Vice President.

We welcome the distinguished delegation of the Republic of Korea and we thank~~s~~ for today’s presentation.

Italy welcomes Republic of Korea’s efforts to improve human rights in the country.

While the second National Action Plan has been successfully completed, we appreciate the plan to elaborate a third National Action Plan for Human Rights with a greater involvement of civil society.

We also commend Republic of Korea’s progress in preventing sexual and domestic violence and providing assistance to victims.

Mr. Vice President, Italy would like to seize this opportunity to offer the following recommendations:

* *Consider to take steps with a view to abolishing the death penalty*
* *Strengthen efforts to combat all forms of discrimination, including against LGBTI persons, by adopting a comprehensive law and running national awareness campaigns*
* *Guarantee freedom of expression and peaceful association and safeguard the activities of human rights defenders, in particular by promoting effective national policies to protect their initiatives*

We wish the Republic of Korea a successful UPR.

I thank you.