

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

*Check against delivery*

**UPR 28– Zambia**

**13 November 2017**

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Italy welcomes Zambia’s commitment to the UPR and its efforts to improve the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. We particularly appreciate progress Zambia has made to align its domestic legislation with international human rights obligations, especially those related to person with disabilities, education and gender equity and equality.

We also commend Zambia’s engagement in fighting against HIV, including, in particular, the implementation of initiatives aimed at spreading HIV awareness especially among young people.

Mr. Vice President,

Italy would like to seize this opportunity to offer Zambia the following recommendations:

* *Consider to take steps to establish a de jure moratorium with a view to abolishing the death penalty*
* *Strengthen efforts to improve the conditions of prisons and guarantee the rights of detainees*
* *Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and further strengthen efforts on gender issues.*

We wish Zambia a successful UPR.

I thank you.