

*Check against delivery*

**UPR 41 – South Africa**

**Wednesday 16 November 2022, 9:00 – 12:30**

**Delivered by: Ambassador Gian Lorenzo Cornado, Permanent Representative of Italy**

*(Focal point: Daniele Borrelli, First Counsellor)*

Thank you, Mister President.

We thank the distinguished delegation of South Africa for their national report and presentation.

Italy welcomes the ratification of the *Optional Protocol* to the *Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*.

Italy also welcomes the efforts to combat violence against women and domestic violence, including through the first *National Strategic Plan on gender-based violence and femicide* (NSP-GBVF).

Italy would like to offer the following recommendations:

* *Continue to strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.*
* *Ensure an enabling and safe environment for freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.*

We wish the delegation of South Africa a successful review.

I thank you.