

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

*Check against delivery*

**UPR 29 – Serbia**

**24 January 2018**

**Delivered by Mr. Massimo Baldassarre, First Secretary**

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Italy welcomes Serbia’s commitment to the UPR and its efforts to improve the promotion of the rule of law and protection of human rights in the country. We appreciate efforts Serbia carried out since the second UPR cycle particularly with the ratification of the Council of Europe’s Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (in 2013). We also commend the attention paid on human rights education with regular trainings provided to government employees in the field of human rights protection and anti-discrimination. Commendable is also the engagement of Serbia in the fight against corruption with a specific national Strategy for the period 2013-2018.

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

* *Strengthen efforts to prevent and combat all forms of discrimination, including against women, children, Roma and LGTBI persons.*
* *Adopt measure to protect and promote freedom of expression, including freedom of speech and information, and ensure that journalists and human rights defenders may work freely and safely.*

We wish Serbia a successful UPR.

I thank you.