

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

*Check against delivery*

**UPR 30 – Turkmenistan**

**7 May 2018**

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

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Italy welcomes Turkmenistan’s commitment to the UPR and its efforts to improve the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. We commend the adoption of new legislation related to human rights since the last UPR, in particular the establishment of the Office of the Ombudsperson and the adoption of National Action Plans on Human Rights, on Gender Equality and against Trafficking in Persons.

Mr. President,

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

* *Allow the United Nations special procedures to visit the country;*
* *Strengthen efforts to guarantee the respect for fundamental freedoms, also by simplifying the procedures for legal registration of NGOs* *and religious groups;*
* *Intensify efforts to combat cases of torture and forced disappearances;*
* *Take measures to fight all forms of discrimination, including when based on sexual orientation.*

We wish Turkmenistan a successful review.

I thank you.