

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

*Check against delivery*

**UPR 31 – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**5 November 2018**

**Delivered by H.E. Ambassador Gian Lorenzo Cornado, Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations in Geneva**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Italy appreciates the commitment of Saudi Arabia to the UPR,takes note of progress made since the second cycle in favor of children, particularly the adoption of Royal Decree no. 14.

[Italy] presents the following recommendations:

* *Consider introducing a moratorium of death penalty.*
* *Guarantee freedom of opinion and expression and safeguard the activity of human rights defenders and journalists, also by creating an environment in which they all can freely operate according with international standards.*
* *Increase the transparency and openness of legal proceedings and investigation; ensure perpetrators of crimes be prosecuted, also with reference to the case of Jamal Khashoggi, for which e do expect a fair, steady and effective investigation to be conducted in order for clear responsibilities to be ascertained.*
* *Intensify efforts to prevent and combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women and further promote and protect women’s rights, in particular by repealing the legal guardianship system and by combating child early and forced marriages.*
* *Protect and guarantee children’s rights, in particular by preventing their recruitment in armed conflicts and promoting their rehabilitation and reintegration in society.*

We wish to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia a successful review.

I thank you.