

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

*Check against delivery*

**UPR 31 – Belize**

**12 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 welcomes the distinguished delegation of Belize and thanks it for the national report and today presentation.

Italy commends positive results Belize has achieved since the last UPR cycle, including the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights as well as the accession to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Italy also appreciate the launch, in 2017, of the National Gender-Based Violence Plan for the period 2017-2020 which provides a basis for advocacy work to end gender-based violence in all its forms.

All efforts in the field of the human rights education and training are also further positive results that need to be mentioned.

Italy seizes this occasion to present the following recommendations:

* *Consider to abolish the death penalty.*
* *Enhance efforts to reinforce the rule of law and to prevent and combat episodes of arbitrary detention, extrajudicial killings and abuses by security forces, including against human rights defenders.*
* *Take measures to fight all forms of discrimination, including those based on sexual orientation and gender identity.*

We wish Belize a successful review.

I thank you.