

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

*Check against delivery*

**UPR 33 – Albania**

**6 May 2019**

**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 Albania and thanks for its national report and today’s presentation.

Italy appreciates the commitment of Albania to the UPR and the improvements made since the last cycle, particularly with regards to the justice system where a Cross-sector Strategy for the term 2017-2020 and its Action Plan have been launched to strengthen independence, efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of the justice institutions. Italy also acknowledges steps taken to fight against corruption and encourages Albania to pursue its efforts in this field.

Italy commends the adoption of the laws on juvenile justice and on the Protection of the Rights of Children and is pleased to appreciate progress in relation with the fight against domestic violence and gender based violence, with the adoption of measures aimed at preventing and addressing violence against women and children as well as providing support to victims.

Italy seizes this occasion to present the following recommendations:

* *Take further measures to combat domestic violence, including by fully implementing the existing legislation and by guaranteeing that women victims of violence can access legal aid and social services.*
* *Strengthen the efforts to prevent and combat child, early and forced marriage.*
* *Continue to devote primary attention to guaranteeing the full enjoyment of the rights of children, including the right to access education, also for those involved in episodes of blood feud.*
* *Guarantee the full implementation of the Action Plan on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, thus ensuring the right to inclusive education for all children with disabilities.*

Italy wishes Albania a successful review.

I thank you.