

*Permanent Mission of Italy to the*

*International Organizations in Geneva*

*Check against delivery*

**UPR 33 – Bhutan**

**8 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 high level delegation of the Kingdom of Bhutan, led by H.E. Lyonpo Tandi Dorji, and thanks for its national report and today’s presentation.

Italy commends the commitment of Bhutan to the UPR and appreciates efforts to promote access to quality and free health and education services with a particular focus on people living in rural areas.

The strengthening of the National Commission for Women and Children is also an important signal that demonstrate the engagement of the Bhutanese Authorities in promoting women and children rights.

Italy seizes this occasion to present the following recommendations:

* *Consider ratifying all the core human rights instruments to which it is not yet a party, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.*
* *Take appropriate measures to ensure that the rights of the children are respected, including by prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment.*
* *Strengthen the efforts to prevent and combat child, early and forced marriage, including by raising the minimum legal age of marriage for girls.*
* *Intensify efforts to protect and promote freedom of religion or belief and the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities.*

Italy wishes to the Kingdom of Bhutan a successful review.

I thank you.