****

**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA**

**34th Session of the UPR Working Group**

**Review of Italy**

Thank you, Mr. President.

Malaysia welcomes the distinguished delegation of Italy and thanks them for the presentation of their national report.

1. We wish to recall Malaysia’s recommendations during Italy’s second UPR, and welcome, in this regard, progress in combating racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. We note important steps have been undertaken, including combating hate speech online, through the 2016-established Observatory on Media and the Internet. Nevertheless we remain concerned at the continued prevalence of racial discourse, stigmatization and negative stereotypes directed against the Muslim and minority communities in the country. As such, we **recommend** Italy to introduce stringent policies, strengthen overall law enforcement and ensure access to justice and redress for victims of racial hatred or violence. We also hope to see progress in inter-ethnic, inter-religious, and inter-cultural spheres within the society.
2. On the issue of gender-based violence, Malaysia recalls the observations made by the CEDAW and **recommends** that Italy sanctions robust legal framework and develops targeted policies that comprehensively addresses the issue of underreporting as well as low prosecution and conviction rates for gender-based violence crimes. Another important issue that we wish to highlight concerns the rights of persons with disabilities, who often live in poverty due to unemployment.
3. We **recommend** the Government to allocate sufficient financial resources and implement programmes to further promote employment among those living with disabilities.
4. Malaysia also wishes to urge and **recommend** Italy to accelerate efforts towards the establishment of an independent National Human Rights Institution in conformity with the Paris Principles.
5. In concluding, my delegation firmly believes that Italy would continue to protect and promote the freedom as well as rights of all people, including those of religious minorities.

I thank you, Mr. President.

**GENEVA  
4 November 2019**