

Check against delivery**Italian intervention****UPR – Dominican Republic  
(5/02/2014)**

Thank you, Mister President.

Italia da la bienvenida a la delegacion de la Republica Dominicana y agradece la presentacion de su detallado informe.

Italy commends the Dominican Republic for its commitment to improve the protection of human rights in the country and implement the recommendations accepted during the first cycle.

Italy welcomes the ratification of CAT and encourages the Dominican Republic to fully implement it without delay. Italy also appreciates the measures taken in the field of human rights education, and urges the Dominican Republic to increase the relevance of human rights in the school system at all levels.

Noting that, in spite of the important steps already taken, violence against women continues to be a matter of concern, Italy **recommends** the Dominican Republic to step up its efforts in order to prevent gender-based violence, punish perpetrators and provide the victims with adequate remedies, *inter alia* by enhancing the resources devoted to the Ministry of Women and establishing the Units for the Integrated Assistance for Victims in all provinces.

Following-up our previous recommendation, we would be interested in learning more details on the measures taken to fight against any forms of exploitation of children, such as prostitution, pornography and domestic work.

Italy notes the steps taken in the framework of the “clean-up policy” in national institutions, also with respect to police and security forces. In this regard, Italy **recommends** the Dominican Republic to launch an open dialogue with the civil society with a view to identifying and adopting further measures aimed at preventing possible abuses committed by police and security forces, and ensure that the victims and their relatives have access to fair and independent justice.

Noting the concerns expressed by International and Regional bodies on the effects of the ruling of the Constitutional Court of 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 issue, Italy **recommends** the Dominican Republic to ensure that international standards on nationality and statelessness continue to be fully applied in the country to all individuals without discriminations.

I thank you