

Universal Periodic Review – 20th Session
Statement by Ireland on the review of Italy

27 October 2014

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Italy and thanks it for its presentation.

We commend the extension by Italy of a standing invitation to Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council and the fact that four visits have taken place since 2012. We note, however, that a number of reports to Treaty Bodies are overdue and urge Italy to submit its outstanding reports as expeditiously as possible.

We welcome steps taken by Italy to implement the recommendations of the first cycle, although work remains to be done. Mechanisms, such as elaboration of a Mid-Term Report, can be of significant assistance and we accordingly urge Italy to consider such a Mid-Term Report during this cycle.

Independent and effective National Human Rights Institutions play a crucial role in promotion and protection of all human rights. We are disappointed that, despite the preparation of a number of Bills since Italy's acceptance of relevant recommendations in the first UPR cycle, no such institution has yet been established. Ireland **recommends** that Italy establish a National Human Rights Institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles, with a broad human rights mandate, and following a participatory process including civil society input.

Secondly, Ireland **recommends** that Italy takes all necessary measures to address violence against women as well as gender inequality in particular in the workplace and in the context of pregnancy or family status.

Thank you