

Rev. 1

ITALY

**HRC 14 - Item 6 - 9 June 2010
(Consideration of UPR Reports)**

ADDRESS BY

**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA,
AMB. LAURA MIRACHIAN
(Introductory Statement)**

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Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to take the floor today, on the occasion of the consideration of the Outcome, following Italy's review of last February, during the 7th session of the Universal Periodic Review.

In Italy, the Universal Periodic Review has significantly contributed to assess our domestic situation in the field of human rights. Our national report was the product of an open and comprehensive consultative process which benefited from several different inputs by the State Administration and civil society. This gave us the opportunity to carry out a thorough internal assessment on the implementation of international standards in the field of human rights, with a coordinated holistic approach.

In presenting our national report last February, we focused on a number of priority issues, such as: compliance with the core international human rights instruments; fight against racism and all forms of discrimination, including against vulnerable groups; situation of migrants and asylum-seekers; presence of Roma and Sinti Communities; human rights of women and children; freedom of opinion and expression; independence of the judiciary; administration of Justice and, last but not least, the commitment to establish an independent national Human Rights Institution.

Important decisions concerning migration policy will be taken within the legal and political framework of the European Union, through a coordinated approach which must encompass sustainability, social integration and rule of law as complementary aspects of the same phenomenon.

During the interactive dialogue, 92 recommendations have been received. We decided to examine all of them and provide responses, before the holding of the current session. These responses are contained in the addendum document in front of you (Document A/HRC/14/4/Add.1), dated 31 May 2010.

Let me underline that Italian Authorities have greatly appreciated the interest of all the delegations taking part in the debate and that they have given - and continue to give - serious consideration to all, absolutely all recommendations. Each one of them was an opportunity to re-examine our position on the issue it raised. Between February and June, Italian Authorities have convened two meetings with civil society organizations devoted to the results of the review. The review and the responses to recommendations were the subject of two Parliamentary hearings of the Government with competent Parliamentary Commissions.

As you may see in the addendum document I have just mentioned, we gave positive answer to the great majority of recommendations. More in detail, **out of 92 recommendations, we have accepted 78. Two recommendations have been accepted partially while 12 were not accepted.** Detailed comments and explanations are given in the document about 44 of the accepted recommendations as well as about those partially accepted or not accepted.

Many recommendations focus on challenging areas, where we recognize that further attention is required, such as integration policies and equal

opportunities. Some concrete decisions have already been taken over the last months and weeks. For example, I am glad to announce that the Italian Parliament has concluded a few days ago the ratification process of the Warsaw Convention on the protection of victims of human trafficking; that a further amount of 200 Million Euros for integration policies for migrants, particularly in the labor sector have been allocated; and that the Minister for Equal Opportunities will soon launch an updated National Action Plan against racism and racial discrimination. These measures are taken in a particularly difficult financial moment related to the international crisis.

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will stop here for now and leave room to the interventions of States and other stakeholders. I will then return on some specific issues in my concluding remarks. Thank you once again for your kind attention and participation.