**Universal Periodic Review Working Group – 34th Session**

**Universal Periodic Review of the Italian Republic**

**Statement by Australia**

**Monday 4 November 2019**

Thank you [President/Vice President].

Australia commends measures taken by Italy to improve gender equality, including Act 120/2011, which requires increased representation of women on company boards. We welcome also Italy’s increased funding for anti-trafficking projects, and the adoption of its first National Action Plan against Trafficking and Serious Exploitation of Human Beings.

Australia recommends that **Italy:**

1. **Takes further measures to address the gender wage gap, noting the prevalence of women in part-time and low-paid jobs.**
2. **Enhances practical implementation of the National Action Plan on Trafficking and takes effective action to ensure that victims of trafficking are treated in accordance with human rights.**
3. **Establishes an independent national human rights institution compliant with the Paris Principles, and strengthens the capacity of the National Office of Racial Discrimination.**

**[128 Words]**