



**Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations  
Human Rights Council – Universal Periodical Review  
Brazil, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Madam President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of Brazil, led by Maria do Rosário Nunes, Minister of Human Rights. The National Report highlights the wide public consultations carried out in the country, the progress made in combating poverty and in the promotion and protection of many human rights in recent years.

The Holy See Delegation appreciates that efforts have been made in legal, political, judicial, policy and institutional areas such as democratic governance, security, economy, child labour and access to education.

Some difficult challenges remain to be addressed, among others: reducing the number of people living below the poverty line; improving health conditions; ensuring a free compulsory primary education for all and preventing the phenomenon of street-children and child-workers.

My Delegation would like to make the following recommendations for consideration by Brazil and eventual inclusion in the National Human Rights Programme:

- Maintain the commitment to poverty reduction.
- Take adequate measures to combat illiteracy and guarantee all citizens the enjoyment of the right to education, especially for poor people and those living in rural areas or belonging to indigenous minorities.

- Protect the natural family and marriage, formed by a husband and a wife, as a basic cell of society as it provides the best conditions for raising children.
- Reduce maternal, child and infant morbidity and mortality by promoting effective assistance measures during pregnancy and at the moment of birth.
- Accelerate the improvement of the judicial, police and prison systems in line with international human rights standards.
- Combat human trafficking, "death squads", violence and related sexual exploitation.
- Continue improving the life conditions of migrants and refugees in Brazil.
- Finally, improve the protection of children by fighting against child labour, providing for children living in the streets and ensuring education for them.

Thank you, Madam President.