



**Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations  
Human Rights Council – Universal Periodical Review  
India, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Madam President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of the Republic of India led by H.E. Mr. Goolam E. Vahanvati, Attorney General of India. India's National Report highlights the progress made in the promotion and protection of Human Rights during recent years. Efforts have indeed been made to improve legal and institutional frameworks in important areas such as recognition of equal dignity, women protection, work, security, multi-ethnic peaceful coexistence and access to education.

There are, however, some areas of life where attention to Human Rights implementation is still called for, as, for example, in reducing the number of people living below the poverty line, improving health conditions, overcoming the problem of child labor, ensuring the supply of drinkable water for all and specially taking effective measures to prevent and combat violence stemming from caste and religious discrimination.

My Delegation wishes to present the following recommendations for consideration by India:

- Strengthen the Federal Government's effort to guarantee freedom of religion to everyone in this "world's largest democracy".
- It should continue to promote the right to equal opportunity for and at work.

- Prevent and pursue through the judicial process, all violent acts against religious and tribal minorities, Dalits and other casts.
- Ensure timely registration of all births and provide training and awareness-raising measures with regards to registration in rural areas.
- Continue to promote the right of women in their choice of marriage and their equality of treatment independently of caste and tribe or other considerations.
- Implement monitoring mechanisms to stop people trafficking.

Thank you, Madam President.