



52

**Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations
Human Rights Council – Universal Periodical Review
Morocco, May 22nd, 2012**

Madam President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of the Kingdom of Morocco, led by Mr. Mustapha Ramid, Minister of Justice. The National Report highlights the progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights in the Kingdom including the approval of a new Constitution that strengthens freedom of assembly, association and expression.

Effective efforts have been made to achieve universal and free primary education, to defend the dignity and rights of migrants and to improve and humanize prison conditions. A National Human Rights Independent Institution and an Equity and Reconciliation Commission have been established.

Morocco, however, is still facing some challenges, which include: reducing poverty and child, infant and maternal mortality; providing electricity and drinking water in rural areas and enhancing education, employment and housing.

My Delegation would like to present the following recommendations for consideration by Morocco:

- Increase programs of obstetric, prenatal and neonatal care and attendance at deliveries by medical and paramedical professionals.
- Ensure the application, in line with international human rights provisions, of article 3 of the new Constitution that guarantees freedom of worship for all.
- Abolish «de iure» the death penalty.

Thank you, Madam President.