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**Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations
Human Rights Council – 16th Session of the Universal Periodical Review
Geneva, 25 April 2013
GERMANY**

Mr President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of Germany led by H.E. Mr Markus Löning, Federal Government Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs. The National Report highlights Germany's situation on Human Rights while recognising some challenges and possibilities of improvement.

My delegation praises Germany's significant work made to promote and protect human rights by modifying or creating pertinent legislation and appreciates its accomplishments and improvements in areas like the rights of persons with disabilities, the fight against racism and xenophobia, the ratification of international Conventions as well as the standing invitation extended to all Special Rapporteurs to visit Germany.

My Delegation wishes to present the following recommendations for consideration by the Government of Germany:

- To protect the right to life from the conception to natural death.
- To fully protect the freedom of religion and belief by allowing the conscientious objection clause in all fields.
- To fully respect the choices of parents concerning the education of their children in accordance with art. 14 (2) and art. 18 (1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- To continue improving the protection of human rights of migrants in the health, legal, social, education, economic and labour fields.

Thank you Mr President.