



Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations
Human Rights Council – 17th Session of the Universal Periodical Review
Geneva, 22 October 2013

NIGERIA

Mr President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of Nigeria led by H.E. Mr. Mohammed Bello Adoke, Attorney General and Minister of Justice. The National Report highlights Nigeria's on-going efforts to promote and protect human rights across the country. My Delegation appreciates Nigeria's efforts to combat violence against Christians and other minorities, to prevent torture and extra-judicial executions, to promote interreligious dialogue, to defend unborn children, to increase access to health, education, and development, among others. However, there are still some areas where attention to human rights implementation is deeply needed.

Therefore, my Delegation wishes to present the following recommendations for consideration by the Government of Nigeria:

- To continue its efforts in responding to the on-going violence by extremist groups against Christians and other minorities, by working to enforce human rights standards in protecting vulnerable populations, by prosecuting promoters of violence, and by promoting interreligious dialogue.
- To continue to improve prison conditions and the treatment of prisoners in line with human rights standards.
- To ensure the protection of women's human rights by reducing and eliminating human trafficking, sexual violence and exploitation, domestic violence, maternal mortality, and female genital mutilation.
- To ensure the protection of children's human rights by reducing and eliminating domestic and international child trafficking, sexual abuse, economic exploitation, "baby farming", widespread homelessness, abuse stemming from belief in child witchcraft, and forced conversions.
- To consider abolishing the death penalty.

Thank you Mr President.