



Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations  
Human Rights Council – 19<sup>th</sup> Session of the Universal Periodical Review  
Geneva, 30 April 2014  
PORTUGAL

Mr President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of Portugal led by H.E. Bruno Maçães, Secretary of State for European Affairs. The National Report highlights Portugal's situation on Human Rights while recognizing some challenges and possibilities of improvement.

The Delegation of the Holy See appreciates the progress of Portugal in promoting and protecting human rights by enacting and implementing pertinent legislation. It acknowledges improvements in different areas such as: the prevention of trafficking in persons, the prevention of child labour, tackling racial discrimination, intolerance and xenophobia, as well as improvements in integrating immigrants and ethnic minorities. Commendable also is this Country's ratification of a significant number of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law Treaties and Conventions.

My Delegation wishes to present the following recommendations for consideration:

- To continue the protection of women, migrants, persons with disabilities and elderly people, groups which are particularly vulnerable in this moment of economic and financial crisis.
- To foster and safeguard the family, based upon the stable relationship between a man and a woman, as the natural and fundamental unit of society.<sup>1</sup>
- To provide primary and secondary education for all children irrespective of their legal status.

Thank you Mr. President.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_const\\_19651207\\_gaudium-et-spes\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html), "By their very nature, the institution of matrimony itself and conjugal love are ordained for the procreation and education of children; and find in them their ultimate crown. Thus a man and a woman, who by their compact of conjugal love "are no longer two, but one flesh" (Matt. 19:ff), render mutual help and service to each other through an intimate union of their persons and of their actions. Through this union they experience the meaning of their oneness and attain to it with growing perfection day by day. As a mutual gift of two persons, this intimate union and the good of the children impose total fidelity on the spouses and argue for an unbreakable oneness between them." (April 24, 2014)