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Statement by H.E. Archbishop Silvano M. Tomasi, Permanent Representative of the Holy
See to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva
at the United Nations Human Rights Council –
20th Session of the Universal Periodic Review
EL SALVADOR
Geneva, 27 October 2014

Mr. President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of El Salvador on the occasion of the presentation of its second National Report to the Universal Periodic Review.

The Delegation of the Holy See commends El Salvador for the many encouraging efforts introduced since its presentation to the first UPR aimed at the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as the strengthening of national institutions and infrastructure that cooperate with the international organizations.

My Delegation acknowledges the determination of El Salvador to protect the fundamental rights of migrants and assist in their proper reintegration through the “Programme for Reintegration of Returning Migrants”; this is especially urgent for women migrants and unaccompanied minors as they are most vulnerable to various types of abuse and subject to organizations of human trafficking. Moreover, the initiative to secure the right to identity through proper birth registration is a positive sign of defending the value of human life.

My Delegation wishes to present the following recommendations to the Delegation of El Salvador:

- To keep striving to eradicate unchecked criminality, corruption and gang activity, which produce devastating human rights violations, especially those acts of violence and murder, by focussing on education, proper employment and transparency in law enforcement.
- To further progress to overcome the causes of extreme poverty, a major factor in the cases of juvenile delinquency and human trafficking, especially of the young by a firm implementation of the 2013 “National Policy on Trafficking in Persons”.
- To maintain the current legislation, which respects the human person at all stages of his/her life.

Thank you Mr. President.