



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 Human Rights Council – 23rd Session of the Universal Periodical Review
Geneva, 4 November 2015

RWANDA

Mr. President,

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

My Delegation acknowledges the efforts made by the Rwandan government to protect children with the creation of the National Commission for Children (NCC) and to reduce their mortality, to protect disabled persons with the formation of the National Council for Persons with Disabilities, to cooperate with the UN human rights mechanisms and to improve detention conditions. The commitment to combat any genocide ideology, to stop human trafficking and to strengthen civil society as well as to reducing poverty and food shortage, also indicate progress.

My Delegation would like to present the following recommendations:

1. To adopt a comprehensive policy to avert the trafficking of children, in particular the disappearance of adolescent girls from refugee camps, and to protect them against exploitation, and especially child labor.
2. To continue the process of national reconciliation, so that all citizens, independent of ethnic background, may be able to contribute to the development of the country in harmony with the principles of fundamental human rights.
3. To reinforce and improve the education system, reducing the disparity between urban and rural areas, with special attention to children with disabilities.
4. To ensure asylum-seekers' rights and family reunification without discrimination.

Thank you Mr. President.