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Statement of H.E. Archbishop Ettore Balestrero, Apostolic Nuncio

and Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the United Nations

and Other International Organizations in Geneva, at the 46th Session

of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: URUGUAY

Geneva, 1 May 2024

Mr. President,

The Holy See appreciates Uruguay’s efforts in promoting respect for human rights. In the context of the Universal Periodic Review of the Country, while underscoring the importance of respecting the sanctity of human life in all its stages, my Delegation wishes to offer the following recommendations:

1. Uphold the intrinsic dignity of each person and, in accordance with this principle, refrain from legitimizing practices that would result in the unnatural termination of human life.
2. Recognize the public and institutional dimensions of religious freedom.
3. Recognize the institutional dimension of the right to conscientious objection and to fully protect this right, in particular, in educational, working and health institutions.
4. Guarantee the freedom to celebrate religious marriages, thereby eliminating the legislation that criminalizes them if they are not preceded by a civil marriage.

Thank you, Mr. President.