

Statement by H.E. Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, Permanent Observer of the Holy See

to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva

at Human Rights Council – 28th Session of the Universal Periodical Review

**Guatemala**

Geneva, 8 November 2017

Mr. President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of Guatemala during the presentation of its National Report for the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

The National Report illustrates the efforts to strengthen the healthcare services and the social and housing programmes as well as those to enhance literacy among children and adults, in the perspective of a multilinguistic and multicultural society.

My Delegation notes, in particular, the initiatives to ensure food security for children, especially in the most vulnerable areas.

My Delegation wishes to present the following recommendations:

* To maintain and expand those existing initiatives to fight against trafficking in children, child labour, and to protect children from sexual exploitation and other forms of modern slavery, especially by enhancing services of registration at birth;
* To continue efforts to promote freedom of expression and information by protecting journalists;
* To continue efforts to facilitate and promote indigenous peoples’ access to education, sanitation, property and public positions.

Thank you, Mr. President.