

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

**Pakistan**

Geneva, 13 November 2017

Mr. President,

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

My Delegation appreciates the efforts made by the authorities of Pakistan in promoting and protecting human rights in the country. Despite recent steps taken by the government in recent year, multiple attacks on religious minorities have been registered in the past few years.

My Delegation thus wishes to present the following recommendations:

* To increase its efforts to improve the education system, as a tool to enhance peaceful coexistence in the country;
* To consider repealing the blasphemy law, or at least amending it to protect persons from eventual abuses or false accusations and to moderate the penalties;
* To continue its efforts for the improvement of the protection of human rights, especially by eliminating discrimination based on sex, race, caste and religion.

Thank you, Mr. President.