

**Statement by Msgr. John Putzer, Chargé d’Affaires, a.i.**

**Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations and Other**

**International Organizations in Geneva**

**at the 40th Session of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Uganda**

*Geneva, 27 January 2022*

Mr. President,

 The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of Uganda on the occasion of the presentation of its third National Report to the Universal Periodic Review.

The National Report highlights that efforts have been made to implement international human rights standards, to ensure inclusive economic growth, equality and accountability, and to strengthen the rule of law and access to justice. Uganda also remains an example for the hospitality and protection of refugees.

The Holy See particularly welcomes Uganda’s decision to remove the mandatory death penalty from domestic law. Likewise, my Delegation congratulates the country for reducing HIV-AIDS infections through effective antiretroviral treatments and access to health services for all in need.

Despite the progress, some tough challenges remain to be addressed in Uganda in several areas, such as justice, education, and child protection.

To this end, my Delegation makes the following recommendations:

1. To abolish the death penalty and accelerate the improvement of the judicial, police and prison systems, including by reducing pretrial detention.
2. To continue to expand social assistance to the most vulnerable and to reduce the number of people living below the poverty line.
3. To provide victims of trafficking in persons with shelter, counselling, legal and psychosocial assistance.
4. To ensure quality, holistic primary education for all children.
5. To strengthen the efforts to ensure the effective elimination of child labour, especially in hazardous work.

Thank you, Mr. President.