

**Statement by H.E. Fortunatus Nwachukwu, Permanent Observer of the Holy See**

**to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva**

**at the Human Rights Council’s 41st Session of the Working Group on the
Universal Periodical Review**

**India**

Geneva, 10 November 2022

Mr. President,

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

My Delegation appreciates the efforts made by the authorities of India in promoting and protecting human rights in the country.

Nevertheless, certain policies and practices adopted by the Government have a tendency to be, *de facto*,discriminatory against religious minorities resulting in insecurity and distrust towards the State, as well as instances of violence.

Thus my Delegation wishes to present the following recommendations:

* To guarantee that “Foreign Currency Regulation Act” (FCRA) certificates are issued in a non-discriminatory fashion.
* To ensure that State and local legislations are not in conflict with national legislation and constitutional provisions with regard to the freedom of religion or belief, including by repealing laws that are used to prevent, discourage, or prosecute conversion.
* To adopt a comprehensive national law to prosecute sectarian violence by individuals or groups, including propagating violence or threats of violence against religious minorities.
* To continue its efforts to enhance the protection ofhuman rights, especially by eliminating discrimination against women and discrimination based on caste and religion.
* To place a nation-wide moratorium on the application of the death penalty, with a view to its eventual abolition.

Thank you, Mr. President