

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 – 30th Session of the Universal Periodical Review

**Canada**

*Geneva, 11 May 2018*

Mr. President,

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

My Delegation appreciates the attention given by the Canadian Government to the fundamental human right of freedom of religion and belief and hopes that this right will continue to be promoted and defended within the Country.

My Delegation would like to offer the following recommendations:

* To continue promoting the living conditions of ethnic and racial minorities, especially in the areas of healthcare and decent housing.
* To ensure that mining operations are conducted on the basis of clear and honest assessments of their environmental impact;
* To ensure that indigenous communities can express their free and informed consent prior to any measure that may affect their land.

The Holy See expresses to the Delegation of Canada its best wishes for a successful UPR.

Thank you, Mr. President.