

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 – 33rd Session of the Universal Periodical Review

**Costa Rica**

Geneva, 13 May 2019

Mr. President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of Costa Rica at the presentation of its National Report for the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

My Delegation appreciates the role carried out by Costa Rica within the international community in promoting the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Moreover, we recognize the Country’s efforts to foster a society that is inclusive, aiming to “leaving no-one behind”, by implementing different policies and strategies that enhance quality education and encourage the participation of women in social life, and by welcoming and protecting migrants and refugees from neighbouring countries.

My Delegation wishes to present the following recommendations:

* To adopt policies aimed at improving the enjoyment of the right to access to clean water;
* To improve access to, and the quality of, education for children, especially for those living in rural areas and those belonging to minorities, and to implement effective strategies to reduce school drop-out and exclusion rates;
* To take the necessary legislative and administrative steps to ensure that indigenous peoples are properly consulted on territorial management, as well as any other forms of legislation that concern their rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.