

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 – 34th Session of the Universal Periodical Review

**El Salvador**

*Geneva, 4 November 2019*

Mr. President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of El Salvador during the presentation of its National Report for the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and takes note of the many legislative and political initiatives adopted to improve the human rights situation in the country.

The efforts made to counteract the social problems created by gangs and gang violence is particularly commendable. Through a holistic approach that includes education initiatives, environmental programs and the promotion of labour rights, important progress is being made in advancing peace and prosperity for all.

The Holy See hopes that the implementation of these initiatives will continue to prove efficacious.

My Delegation would like to offer the following recommendations:

* To ensure the right to access to water and proper sanitation for all;
* To implement effectively the national education plan in order to prevent adolescents and young persons from joining criminal gangs or to be exploited;
* To reject calls to further liberalize abortion laws while reaffirming and implementing laws and social programs that promote family life, support single mothers and that protect the right to life of the unborn child in all circumstances;
* To improve the health-care system and specifically provide further measures on infrastructure and resources to maternal health, including midwife training, with a focus on health-care for mothers and babies through pregnancy and childbirth.

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

Thank you, Mr. President.