

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

The Republic of Fiji

*Geneva, 6 November 2019*

Mr. President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of the Republic of Fiji during the presentation of its National Report for the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and takes note of its efforts in building a resilient society, capable of facing challenges deriving from climate change~~s~~ as well as from new social realities, such as growing urban migration and the creation of informal settlements around the capital city.

Promoting an inclusive social dialogue, improving education and ensuring fair access to health-care are important tools to foster a culture of non-discrimination and build a resilient community.

My Delegation would like to offer the following recommendations:

* To redouble efforts to counter trafficking in persons and other modern forms of slavery, in particular related to children, and to tackle with proper legislation and effective policies episodes of abuse and sexual exploitation of children, especially connected with the tourism sector;
* To ensure access to a quality education for all, in particular for vulnerable children in rural or urban migration contexts, and that the high rate of drop out, especially among girls, be addressed;
* To foster social cooperation and dialogue among different ethnic groups be fostered in order to effectively address discrimination.

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

Thank you, Mr. President.