

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 Kazakhstan**

*Geneva, 7 November 2019*

Mr. President,

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

My Delegation notes the importance of the six national human rights indicators elaborated by the Government, namely: the right not to be subjected to torture, the right to participate in the government, the right to education, the right to adequate housing, the right to a fair trial, and the issue of violence against women.

In addition, my Delegation would like to offer the following recommendations:

* To keep the moratorium on the death penalty, while further reducing the list of capital crimes in view of abolishing it;
* To ease registration to religious communities and ensure the full exercise of the freedom of religion or belief in line with international standards;
* To ensure that the environment is properly protected and the population informed on the impact of pollutants to the environment and on people’s health;
* To redouble effort to effectively tackle the trafficking of persons, *inter alia*, by easing the measure of registering for all migrants.

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

Thank you, Mr. President.