

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 Arab Republic of Egypt**

*Geneva, 13 November 2019*

Mr. President,

The Holy See welcomes the Delegation of Egypt during the presentation of its National Report for the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review and notices with interest the efforts to build up a more fraternal society where freedom of religion and belief are protected and promoted.

My Delegation would like to offer the following recommendations:

* To reduce progressively the list of capital crimes and to consider a moratorium to death penalty with a view to abolish it;
* To provide training for local law enforcement when responding to incidents of religious violence and abductions of girls especially in rural areas;
* To enhance the respect of human rights of detainees and to expedite prosecutions in the respect of the rule of law;
* To continue to increase the number of educational opportunities for women and girls, the elderly, persons with disabilities and minorities.

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

Thank you, Mr. President.