



Statement by His Excellency Archbishop Ivan Jurkovič, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva
at the Intersessional Workshop on the Right to Peace
Panel 1: “Means to build peace within and between societies. Equality and non-discrimination, justice and the rule of law and freedom of fear and want
(Article 2 of the Declaration on the Right to Peace)”
Geneva, 14 June 2018

Madam Moderator,

My Delegation would like to thank the distinguished panellists for the insightful presentations and the Human Rights Council for convening the present Workshop that gives us the opportunity to reflect on this human right that, along with the rights to life and freedom of religion and belief, can be seen as the core of the entire system of protection and promotion of human rights.

As a matter of fact, “the right to peace and the promotion of peace” is indeed “a vital requirement for the full enjoyment of all human rights by all.”¹

Since “everyone has the right to enjoy peace”² all States must strive to fulfil their solemn duty and responsibility to find paths to a sustainable peace, which is the fruit of justice, engaging in “dynamic, participatory process[es] where dialogue is encouraged and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation...”³

Multilateral diplomacy, notwithstanding its setbacks, has represented in the last century one of the principal venues where nations, on the basis of “the principle that all states are by nature equal in dignity”⁴, have strived to harmonize their relationships “in accordance with the dictates of truth, justice, willing cooperation and freedom”⁵. The Holy See has always encouraged this process, sharing the determination, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war.”⁶

And yet, “peace is not simply the absence of warfare, based on a precarious balance of power; it is fashioned by efforts directed day after day toward the establishment of the ordered universe willed by God, with a more perfect form of justice among men.”⁷

It is, therefore, fitting that the Second Article of the Declaration of the Right to Peace echoes the vision⁸ that the International Community expressed in the 2030 Agenda, which stated that “there can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development.”⁹

¹ A/HRC/RES/35/4, pp 1.

² A/RES/71/189, Annex, Declaration on the Right to Peace, Art. 1.

³ A/HRC/RES/35/4, OP4.

⁴ Pope John XXIII, Encyclical Letter *Pacem in Terris*, 90, quoted in Pope Francis, *Address to the Members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See*, 8 January 2018.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Charter of the United Nations, *preamble*.

⁷ Pope Paul VI, Encyclical Letter *Populorum Progressio*, n. 76.

⁸ A/RES/70/1, nn.7-9.

⁹ *Ibid.*, *Preamble*.

In conclusion, Madam Moderator, the Holy See reaffirms, in the words of Pope Paul VI, that “the new name of peace is development”¹⁰, a development that integrally respects each human person, in its natural dynamics, from conception to natural death, with its cultural and religious values, including its personal inalienable freedom, which is called to discover and recognize the moral law that is written into human nature itself.

Thank you, Madam Moderator.

¹⁰ Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio*, n. 76.