



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 45th Session of the Human Rights Council, Agenda Item 3
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development

Geneva, 16 September 2020

Mr. President,

The Holy See notes with interest the Special Rapporteur's report on the right to development. My Delegation recognizes the profound impact that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to have on financing for development and supports the Special Rapporteur's call on States to "leave no one behind" in their responses to the crisis¹.

Mr. President,

We share the concern for the declining levels of assistance mentioned in the Report, as well as for the trend of privatization that in the context of public-private partnerships could turn social services into profit-generating opportunities. As recalled by the Special Rapporteur, against this background, robust oversight measures are critical to prevent and address abuses in which private actors are involved².

Furthermore, the Holy See welcomes the acknowledgment-of the role played by tax policies in the context of financing for development and the opportunities presented for integration of the right to development and achievement of equality. Indeed, fiscal and monetary policies represent a powerful means for a just distribution of wealth and funding development. Moreover, as emphasized by the Rapporteur, States have the primary responsibility for the creation of national and international conditions favorable to the realization of the right to development³.

At the same time, a comprehensive approach of all those measures, including resource mobilization and tax policies, is crucial. As such, it is important to recall the importance of involving communities and the most vulnerable populations both at the policy and project levels in formulating decisions on whether and how to finance development. This must be at the core of the integral human development to promote the full exercise of human dignity.

¹ <https://undocs.org/en/A/HRC/45/15>, p. 3.

² *Ibidem*, p.14.

³ *Ibidem*, p.15.

Mr. President,

We hope that this moment of great need may also be an opportune time to strengthen solidarity and close collaboration among States and friendship between peoples⁴. This is the time «to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development»⁵ as the only alternative to «the selfishness of particular interests and the temptation of a return to the past, at the risk of severely damaging the peaceful coexistence and development of future generations»⁶.

Thank you.

⁴ Message of the Prefect of the Dicastery for promoting Integral Human Development in the time of coronavirus (covid-19), 11 march 2020, http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/sviluppo-umano-integrale/documents/rc_sviluppo-umano-integrale_20200311_messaggio-covid19_en.html.

⁵ Laudato Si', 25 May 2015, 13.

⁶ Urbi et Orbi message of His Holiness Pope Francis, 12 April 2020, http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco_20200412_urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html.