



Statement by H.E. Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachukwu, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva at the

50th Session of the Human Rights Council- Agenda Item 2, Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Geneva, 14 June 2022

Mister President,

The Delegation of the Holy See takes note of the Annual report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which offers us the opportunity to reflect on both the progress achieved, as well as the challenges that still need to be faced in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Considering the current international scenario, the Holy See continues to follow with the gravest concern the situations of armed conflict, including in Ukraine. These crises aggravate the already fragile multilateral context, especially after more than two years of pandemic. Immediate attention and adequate response must be given among others to the question of food security, which places millions of people at a drastically higher risk of acute hunger. As Pope Francis has said, “[The blocking of grain exports from Ukraine, on which the lives of millions of people depend, especially in the poorest countries, is of great concern.] I make a heartfelt appeal that every effort be made to resolve this issue and to guarantee the universal human right to food. Please do not use wheat, a staple food, as a weapon of war!”¹

In this regard, we would like to reiterate that a comprehensive commitment on the part of the international community is needed more than ever in order to reach a peaceful and swift resolution of the ongoing conflicts.

As such, this Delegation wishes to recall the appeal of Pope Francis to reject war as a means to settle disputes, while tirelessly committing to the pursuit of peace through the appropriate multilateral institutions.

I thank you Mister President

¹Pope Francis, General Audience, Wednesday 1 June 2022.