



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 3,
Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change**

Geneva, 23 June 2022

Mister President,

The Delegation of the Holy See takes note of the first Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change. Today more than ever, climate change poses serious risks that can negatively affect the promotion and protection of human rights and human dignity. While numerous immediate and urgent crises are facing the global community, one must not neglect or underestimate the importance of addressing the negative consequences of carbon emissions and reckless exploitation of resources on our common home.

Mister President,

The climate crisis has a “human face”. Its effects are already a reality for a multitude of people worldwide. While the detrimental consequences of climate change impact the entire human family, they have a disproportionate effect on the poor and those in vulnerable situations. Although least developed and other developing countries have contributed to merely a negligible fraction of the buildup of greenhouse gasses, they are often the first to be hit with their devastating consequences, including natural disasters, floods and draughts. This is especially the case for small island developing States who are often forced to expend significant resources to rebuild after such disasters which are becoming more and more frequent.

Only through concerted efforts at all levels, in a spirit of international solidarity, we will be able to adequately implement durable solutions to the climate crisis. As Pope Francis aptly noted, “the issue of [...] climate change, has clearly demonstrated that we cannot be saved alone and by ourselves: the great challenges of our time are all global. It is thus troubling that, alongside the greater interconnection of problems, we are seeing a growing fragmentation of solutions.”¹

I thank you Mister President.

¹ Pope Francis, Address to the Members of the Diplomatic Corps Accredited to the Holy See, 10 January 2022.