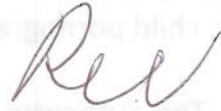


Statement of the Holy See Delegation  
Commission on the Status of Women  
55<sup>th</sup> Session  
(New York, 28 February 2011)



*Interpreters Copy*

Mr. Chairman,

On the occasion of this fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), my delegation takes this opportunity to focus on the priority and review themes presently under consideration. Due to time constraints I have abbreviated my remarks. I ask the official full text be circulated.

The principles by which educational agencies, institutions and schools operate must be firmly rooted in a profound respect for human dignity and with full respect for religious and cultural values.

Values rooted in the natural law common to humanity play a key role in the proper education of the human person. Those who receive an education become wise members of society who can properly choose and pursue that which is good personally and communally and avoid that which is not good for the self and for others. Primary education should focus on basic skills and it must fully respect the primary role of parents regarding their children, especially in, but not limited to, the area of human sexuality.

Mr. Chairman,

The true advancement of women requires that labor should be structured in such a way that women do not have to pay for their advancement by abandoning what is specific to them and at the expense of the family, in which women and mothers have an irreplaceable role. As foundational instruments of the United Nations Organization rightly point out, the family, founded on the marriage between a man and woman, is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State (cf., Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 16,3; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Art. 23,1).

Mr. Chairman,

All States must enact and enforce legislation to protect girls from all forms of violence and exploitation, from conception onwards, including abortion, especially sex-selective abortion, female infanticide.

Mr. Chairman,

Taking up the issue of human trafficking, States need to augment concrete and concerted efforts to work together to put an end to this heinous crime by addressing adequately the

demand side of trafficking in persons by strengthening laws against prostitution of children and adults, child pornography and sexual exploitation.

The authentic advancement of women begins with full respect for the dignity and worth of all persons. Such respect must take into account the entire life cycle - from conception to natural death - and States have the responsibility to ensure this in their national legislations.

Mr. Chairman,

The authentic advancement of women necessarily entails recognition of the deep fundamental anthropological truths about man and woman, the equality of their dignity and the unity of both, the well-rooted and profound diversity between the masculine and the feminine and their vocation to reciprocity and complementarity, to collaboration and to communion. The more we respect this truth of human nature, the more we will be able to confront the challenges which continue to face women today and assist them on the road to authentic advancement around the world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.