

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

REV

Interpretation CSW

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 attached a short statement. 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 the full range of human 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 should be able to identify and avoid that which is good for themselves and for others, and that which is not good for themselves and for others. Primary education should focus on basic skills and it must fully respect the primary role of parents regarding their children's education, but not limited to, the area of human sexuality.

Mr. Chairman,

The true advancement of women requires that women do not have to pay for their advancement by abandoning their families and at the expense of the family. The family is a foundational instrument of the United Nations Organization. It rightly points 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. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 16, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Art. 23, 1.

Mr. Chairman,

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

Mr. Chairman,

Taking up the issue of human trafficking, I would like to address the issue of human trafficking, a heinous crime, by addressing directly the

...demand and significant contribution by governments against prostitution of children and adults, child pornography and sexual exploitation.

The economic 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 and fundamental spiritual truth about the word and image of humanity, of its dignity and the equality and difference between the masculine and the feminine. It is a truth of communion and to communion. The more we respect this truth of human nature, the more we will be able to confront the challenges which we must face women in order to advance authentic advancement around the world.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.