

United States Board on Geographic Names  
Foreign Names Committee  
Statement Regarding Vatican City<sup>1</sup>

At the 399th Foreign Names Committee meeting of the United States Board on Geographic Names (BGN) on September 10, 2019, the committee approved the feature designation *independent political entity (PCLI)* for the geographic feature representing Vatican City State, more commonly known as Vatican City. The FNC determined *PCLI* to be the more accurate designation given that Vatican City is the sovereign territorial base for the Holy See, an independent state with which the United States Government conducts diplomatic relations.

Prior to this reaffirming decision in 2019, the FNC had approved the designation undifferentiated *political entity (PCL)* for Vatican City, based on a strict discernment between the Holy See as an independent government and the territory under its jurisdiction.

September 2021

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<sup>1</sup> APPROVED September 14, 2021