

Oral Statement

For the 26th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

20 June 2014

Item 6 of the agenda: Consideration of the UPR report for Vanuatu

Thank you Mr. President,

Franciscans International (FI) and Edmund Rice International (ERI) appreciate the Government of Vanuatu's commitment in addressing the adverse impact of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights. We commend their efforts to implement the recommendations of the 1st UPR to reduce its green gas house emission and the establishment of the Ministry of Climate Change shows the strong commitment of the government. We welcome the acceptance of the recommendation to work with the international community to address the specific problem of the disproportionately negative impacts, especially women and children, through international cooperation and solidarity.

We endorse the Human Rights Council view that climate change poses an immediate and far reaching threat to people and communities around the world and has adverse implications for the full enjoyment of human rights.¹ While the negative consequences will only gradually touch on the lifestyles and activities of the people in developed States, which are most responsible, the least developed countries and Small Island States which have contributed least to global greenhouse gas emissions will be the worst affected by global warming.² This is the case of Vanuatu. The full enjoyment of the right to life, food, health, water and sanitation of the population of Vanuatu have, and will continue to be adversely affected.

We recommend the members of the Council to take concrete actions on climate change by the establishment of the UN Special Procedure on Climate Change and Human Rights, who will be able to take into consideration, *inter alia*, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.³

We encourage the Government of Vanuatu, through its National Advisory Board on Climate change and Disaster risk reduction to continue involving different communities in the discussion on the mitigation policy, by providing a platform for community level involvement, especially those who are most vulnerable to the adverse impact of climate change most notably, women.

Thank you.

¹ HRC/RES/18/22 OP.1

² A/HRC/20/7 para 5.

³ As stipulated by article 3 of UNFCCC and A/HRC/RES/18/22