



**Franciscans International**  
A voice at the United Nations

United Nations Human Rights Council – 21<sup>st</sup> Session  
20 September 2012  
Item: 6, UPR India

Speaker: Sr. Jessy DSouza

Check against Delivery

Madame President,

Franciscans International (FI) would like acknowledge the efforts of the Government of India on the promotion and protection of human rights including the collaboration with the UPR Mechanism.

However, we would like to express our deep concern on the failure of the Indian Government to provide effective protection for the enjoyment of the human rights of the vulnerable groups, especially children, women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They continuously face different forms of discrimination, and are often denied from the access to full enjoyment of their rights.

On the rights of the Child, we deeply regret the refusal of India to accept the recommendations to ratify the third Optional Protocol of Convention on the Rights of the Child on communication, the ILO Convention 138 on the minimum age for admission to employment and ILO Convention 182 on the elimination of the worst forms of child labor. Similarly on the women's human rights, we are very concerned that India fails to accept the recommendation to ratify the Optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

The Dalit and tribal communities are continuously discriminated and become the victims of human rights violations. We commend the decision to adopt the recommendation to put in place monitoring mechanisms to ensure the effective implementation of the policy related to these communities and we demand the immediate realization in concrete actions with clear timelines in cooperation with the concerned communities and other stakeholders.

Finally, Franciscans International urges the Government of India to:

- *Consider the ratification of the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ILO Convention 138 and ILO Convention 182 and set up concrete time-lines.*
- *Consider the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.*
- *Enact comprehensive anti-discriminatory legislation and provide resources for effective implementation.*

Thank you.