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UN Human Rights Council, 22nd Session, Item 6: UPR
Peru UPR adoption

Oral Statement
Speaker: FRANCESCA RESTIFO

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Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations



CEDET
CENTRO DE
DESARROLLO ETHICO



Grufides



Thank you M President,

Franciscans International, VIVAT International, Mercy International Association, together with the Cajamarca-based group GRUFIDES and the national Center for Ethnic Development wish to draw attention to specific UPR recommendations.

First, we acknowledge that Peru accepted all recommendations calling for targeted measures on racial minorities. We urge the Government to collect and report statistics that are disaggregated for race as a necessary condition to fulfill these commitments. We also call on the Government to analyze the differential impact on afro-Peruvian individuals and communities in the implementation of all UPR recommendations, especially those related to education.

Second, we note that the Government accepted a wide range of recommendations to promote economic, social, and cultural rights. We note, as well, that abuses related to mining activities had a prominent role in Peru's UPR. We recall that a human-rights based approach must be at the forefront of Peru's economic development policy. Especially with regard to mining concessions, we urge the Government to ensure that these activities do not challenge the health and livelihoods of local communities. We are pleased that Peru accepted three specific recommendations on the involvement of indigenous peoples and peasant communities in the implementation and planning of projects. We call on Peru to promote transparency and access to information in the evaluation of the impact of projects aimed at eradicating poverty.

Finally, we are encouraged that Peru accepted recommendations to ensure democratic and peaceful resolution of social conflicts, protect human-rights defenders, and prevent abuses by security forces. However, we urge the Government to refrain from using emergency declarations and arbitrary application of criminal law to inhibit legitimate human-rights activities. In regions such as Cajamarca, the current impunity for threats and violence against human-rights defenders must be countered with rigorous investigations and prosecutions. Cases related to social conflicts should be immediately returned to local jurisdictions to ensure that all accused social leaders have access to a defense.

Thank you, M President.