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29th session of the Human Rights Council
Geneva, 15 June – 3 July 2015
Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Outcomes – KENYA

Ms. Enkeleda Papa

Mr. President,

This statement is delivered on behalf of Edmund Rice International (ERI), Franciscans International (FI), Pax Romana and our partner organizations in Kenya. We commend the Government of Kenya for its constructive engagement in the UPR process and for the mid-term report submitted in September 2012.

Despite the State's commitment to the transitional justice agenda to ensure the right to truth, justice and reparation to the victims of gross human rights violations of the past, we are concerned that not all victims of the 2007 post-election violence have been settled and the independence of the judiciary is often questioned. Since 2010, the country has been in an important constitutional and political transition. We believe that policies and programmes are urgently needed to ensure effective public participation in the on-going reform processes and decentralized governance structures, especially for those victims of gross human rights violations.

Our organizations appreciate the acceptance of several recommendations pertaining to the protection of economic, social and cultural rights, including those on education. However, the enjoyment of these rights is not yet a reality for the majority of Kenyan citizens, especially various marginalized and vulnerable groups who suffer from layers of poverty, increasing conflicts and climate change.

We recall the importance of the protection of the right to food and the right to health, especially for those who live in arid and semi-arid areas. We urge the Government of Kenya to improve efficiency in the use of the allocated resources in the agriculture and health sectors through monitoring mechanisms to evaluate whether those resources are reaching the intended people. The Government should also empower anti-corruption institutions to ensure funds are transmitted to the devolved system effectively and that every transaction is recorded and monitored.

Moreover, the Government of Kenya should reconsider recommendations made by Slovenia to meet the stated commitment under the Maputo Declaration of allocating at least 10% of the state budget to agriculture development and to increase the health budget allocation to the recommended minimum of 15 % of the GDP, in line with commitments under the Abuja Declaration, as well as expedite the process of implementing universal health care coverage.

I thank you.