59th Session of the Human Rights Council
Item 6: Universal Periodic Review - Italy

30 June 2025

Delivered by Nilma Wijgesinghe
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Mr. President,

Franciscans International welcomes the Universal Periodic Review process undertaken by Italy and notes that it has accepted the vast majority of recommendations. We also commend Italy's openness to engaging with Civil Society during the course of the review proceedings and its commitment to continuing to consult in regard to the fulfilment of the obligations undertaken, and by its declaration of intention to provide a mid-term report by January 2027. We hope that this will lead to the implementation of the recommendations accepted within a reasonable timeframe.

We note the commitment to strengthen climate adaptation measures to enhance the climate resilience of rural areas and ask that particular attention be given to forestry management, which has been woefully underfunded. We welcome the acceptance of recommendations in the field of prisoners' rights and the announcement that it is to provide significant funding for the reduction of overcrowding in prisons which is an extremely pressing issue. We also support the undertaking to reduce disparities amongst the regions in terms of health care and to redress the inequitable distribution of health services.

In respect of migration, Franciscans International has called on Italy to uphold international law and to ensure that migrants have safe and lawful routes and that their dignity is respected. The European Union Pact on Migration and Asylum aligns with principles of international law, and we would urge Italy likewise to abide by both the letter and the spirit of this Agreement. There are numerous recommendations on the fair treatment of migrants and refugees in the UPR and we would particularly commend those concerning the strengthening of protection for migrants and measures to be taken to facilitate their integration into society. Thank you.