



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

**61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council**  
**Item 6: Universal Periodic Review – Croatia**  
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*Check against delivery.*

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Mr. President,

Franciscans International welcomes the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process undertaken by Croatia and some notable progress in relation to human rights in various areas.

We welcome the acceptance of the recommendations for the establishment of formal frameworks and national mechanisms involving civil society actors in the development of new policy and legislation; and for continuing and strengthening collaboration with civil society in following up on the UPR recommendations.

We look forward to the implementation of these recommendations to advance human rights broadly, including to ensure an independent and autonomous Office of the Ombudswoman. We also support effective implementation of the National Investment Program for Green Infrastructure which aims to establish sustainable, resilient, safe and pleasant municipalities which may deal with the problems of waste management outlined in our submission.

On the protection of human rights of migrants, we welcome the improvement from the 3<sup>rd</sup> UPR Cycle where all 17 recommendations relating to the proper treatment of migrants were simply noted, to the present cycle where some 9 of 13 were supported.

Finally, we urge the Government of Croatia to cooperate with civil society actors and uphold their duties under the European Union Pact on Migration and Asylum and make full use of the resources available particularly under European Union funding to support sustainable integration programs and not only border protection projects.

Thank you.