

41st Session of the Human Rights Council
Agenda Item 6: UPR Outcome of Vanuatu

4 July 2019

Joint oral statement delivered by Isis Alves

Mr President,

Franciscans International welcome the adoption of the UPR Outcome of Vanuatu. We commend the acceptance of all climate change relevant recommendations, in particular the commitment to review the existing policies and programmes on climate change adaptation and mitigation using a human rights-based approach¹. Despite its insignificant contribution to the global CO₂ emission, Vanuatu has taken a progressive policy through the establishment the Ministry of Climate Change, responsible for the implementation of the National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction, 2016–2030.

The survival of Vanuatu depends on the seriousness of the international community in addressing the imminent threat of climate change. In 2018, the report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) explained the widespread harm and human rights impact of the current trend of warming.

However, despite the alarming irreversible impacts, most UN human rights bodies have been patently inadequate and premised on forms of incremental managerialism and proceduralism which are entirely disproportionate to the urgency and magnitude of the threat².

We call on the Human Rights Council to conduct a study to see whether the UPR recommendations on climate change have brought coherence and positive impacts on the climate policy and action at the national level. Besides, we call all Member States to increase their ambitions and to explicitly adopt a human rights-based approach when submitting their reviewed Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2020.

I thank you.

¹ See recommendation 90.15 proposed by the Seychelles.

² Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights on Climate Change and Poverty, see A/HRC/41/39, para 87.