

**50th session of the Human Rights Council
Panel on the adverse effects of climate change on human rights of
people in vulnerable situations**

28 June 2022

Checked against delivery

Thank you, Mr. President,

Franciscans International and Earthjustice welcome the opportunity to address this panel. And we thank the panellists for their interventions.

The Secretary General's report on the impacts of climate change on the human rights of people in vulnerable situations, that serves as one of the bases for our discussion today highlights two important things, in our view. First it spells out how people who are typically marginalized and discriminated against suffer disproportionately under the consequences of climate change and how they should be better protected; in doing so, it considers an intersectionality perspective that is key to grasp the reality millions of people experience. Second, the report emphasizes that the same people are not just victims of the effects of climate change but are also "agents of change" and are the ones with solutions, based on their traditional and indigenous knowledge and science.

In that regard, we call the attention of this Council to the fact that, many times, people in vulnerable situations who are disproportionately suffering negative impacts of sudden and slow-onset events due to climate change are being made always more vulnerable by the lack of protection and sustainable solutions. For example, in the dry corridor, like in Honduras, small-scale farmers and peasants who had been displaced by the hurricane Mitch were displaced to places that were more dangerous and were the first victims of hurricanes Iota and Eta. Once again being displaced and their poor subsistence being rendered even harder by floods and landslide. This situation is particularly terrible for women. Many women from the region are left with no choice but to migrate, putting their lives and health at risks, being victims of traffickers, abused, enslaved and at times losing limbs due to accidents on the train ride.

Indigenous people are also in particularly vulnerable situations but are at the same time holder of vital knowledge and science thanks to which key ecosystems have been protected and could be restored. They need to be not only heard but listen to.

We would appreciate the views of the panel on how to best address these issues and ensure meaningful participation of these agents of change, including internationally.

Thank you.