



44th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

Item 3: Oral statement – Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human rights

6 July 2020

Delivered by Sandra EPAL-RATJEN (video message)

Madam President, Mr. De Schutter,

As one of the NGOs that have historically engaged with the mandate, Franciscans International is very pleased to welcome you, Mr. De Schutter, as the new Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights. We trust that you will build on the very important work that your predecessors have done.

In that regard, we also wish to take the opportunity to express our gratitude to Mr. Philip Alston for his work.

Both Mr. Alston and now you Mr. De Schutter have been looking at the disproportionate impact of climate change on the rights of people living in poverty and the role that they can play in defining a decarbonized economy and a just transition.

This question is of paramount importance for us. Especially as the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that we can afford even less than before to pursue economic models that feed themselves from social inequalities and the destruction of our planet, and not to have a truly human rights compliant sustainable development paradigm.

FI has documented people's struggles against the virus and, even more so, against the severe impacts of many State actions and omissions in response to the pandemic. This work is reflected in FI's written submission under the present item of this session.

Now, starting with the UN Secretary General, many prominent voices have been vehemently saying that we need to build back better. Considering the recovery measures that are currently discussed and adopted in the various countries, we would like to ask you, Mr. De Schutter, to give your views in more details about the key priorities and challenges that you see for national and global recovery efforts, from a human rights perspective.

I thank you.