

**Oral Statement at the 53rd Session of the Human Right Council
Item 2 and 3: Interactive dialogue on the report of the Secretary-General on the
Adverse impact of climate change on the full realization of the right to food**

3 July 2023

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Franciscans International welcomes the Secretary General's report and commends its findings, in particular on the links between deforestation and climate change¹ which finally impacts the full realization of the right to food.

Solomon Islands is vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change. The country has been experiencing the effects of climate change through trends of increasing temperature, decreasing precipitation, changing patterns of weather and extreme events, and accelerated coastal erosion due to rising sea levels.

In Guadalcanal Island, women and girls play a key role in providing food for the households. However, the environmental degradation due to intensive logging affects their access to food. Among others, logging depletes sea and forest food resources; and introduces alien species that wreak havoc on crops.

Current logging practices have also led to soil erosion that has increased sediment in coastal areas and waterways,² and more broadly has led to poor water quality. In the 2020 Voluntary National Review of Solomon Islands, the Government reported that unsustainable logging, and the resulting depletion of forests, may "alter local watersheds and increase the risk of flooding for local communities. The lack of windbreak once provided by forests also exposes cleared land and villages to stronger winds, endangering agriculture and putting settled areas at greater risk during storms."³

In conclusion, we recommend the Government of Solomon Islands to consider the recommendations of the report in their national policies with regard to forestry, climate change and the right to food. I thank you!

¹ See A/HRC/53/47 para 38

² World Bank, *Solomon Islands Systematic Country Diagnostic Priorities for Supporting Poverty Reduction & Promoting Shared*, 1 June 2017, p.54-55, available at <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/416501528199593828/pdf/Solomon-Islands-SCD.pdf>

³ Government of Solomon Islands, *Solomon Islands Voluntary National Review*, June 2020, p.63-64, https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26795VNR_2020_Solomon_Report.pdf