**43rd Session of the Human Rights Council**
**Item 6: Universal Periodic Review - General Debate**

15 June 2020
Joint statement delivered by Sandra EPAL-RATJEN - Franciscans International

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Statement

Thank you, Madam President,

Amnesty International, the Center for International Environmental Law, Earthjustice, Franciscans International, and the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, welcome the increasing interest and discussions towards a more adequate and systematic inclusion of environment and climate change related issues and recommendations in the Universal Periodic Review.

Even more so in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no need to stress again how much climate change will increasingly impact human rights in the future and how important the role of human rights shall be in shaping climate change related policies. Nevertheless, States will have to scale up their engagement on the issue and the human rights system should be used to make an effective difference.

As far as the UPR is concerned, our organizations consider the following points to be of particular importance:

- recommendations on climate change should become an integral part of the review process and be taken into consideration by all stakeholders;

- recommendations related to climate change shall address both adaptation and mitigation, and measures to provide redress to those most impacted;

- recommendations should be as concrete as possible so that they have a potential of having an effective impact on national and global policies;

- recommendations should reflect the global nature of responsibilities and obligations when addressing human rights impacts of climate change;

- in that regard, dialogues and recommendations should not be addressed only to climate vulnerable States but to all States, especially big emitters, individually and jointly, and include issues pertaining to international cooperation and assistance.

I thank you for your attention.