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Human Rights Council

14th session
Item 6: UPR: Italy

9 June 2010

Speaker: Mr. Attilio Galimberti

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Mr. President,

Franciscans International (FI) welcomes the acceptance by Italy of a significant number of recommendations provided by other States and commends Italy for the comments that accompany such acceptance. We appreciate the clarity around the recommendations Italy has partially accepted, and the provision of the reasons behind these decisions.

We are pleased with the involvement of the civil society in the process of the elaboration of the national report and further consultations held with regard to the adoption of UPR recommendations. In this regard, we would recommend Italy put in place a follow-up mechanism and continue the dialogue with civil society, recommending that this be led by the Inter-ministerial Committee of Human Rights.

Additionally, Franciscans International appreciates Italy's commitment to assess the situation and take action to reduce pollution emissions from the Cerano coal power plant in Puglia and the Taranto metallurgical plant. This action will ensure an adequate standard of living and health for the population in those areas, in line with the recommendation put forward by Israel (Recommendation 89). We ask that concrete steps be put in place and made public as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

Franciscans International regrets that Italy declined to ratify the International Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families. The reason cited is that Italian legislation already guarantees most of the rights contained in the UN Convention and because it does not draw any distinction between regular and irregular migrants (A/HRC/14/4/Add.1, rec. 2). We acknowledge this position but we would invite Italy to consider leading a consultation process to review the Convention amongst the members of the European Union, in order to amend the clauses that prevent its ratification.

Moreover, FI regrets the reasons for rejection of recommendations concerning the decriminalization of irregular migrants (Recommendations 72 and 73) as they reinforce the perception that “irregular migrant equals potential criminal.”

Finally, we commend Italy for the recently adopted *ad hoc* inspection plan. This is aimed at eradicating the informal market and to protect migrant workers; particularly in the agriculture and building sectors where there is the highest percentage of migrant workers (A/HRC/14/4/Add.1, rec.27).

Thank you for your attention.