



Human Rights Council

15th session

Item 6: UPR: Kenya

22 September 2010

Speaker: Sr. Genevieve Ngina LSOSF

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Mr. President,

Franciscans International (FI)¹ welcomes Kenya's support to a significant number of recommendations made by other states during its review.

In particular, FI appreciates Kenya's support of recommendations to undertake effective measures to prevent, punish, and eradicate all forms of violence against women, including through the strengthening of law enforcement and the judicial system, providing adequate protection to the victims and awareness raising programs on the rights of women². We strongly urge the government to implement these recommendations and to consider signing and ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)³.

FI is particularly concerned about the situation of single mothers and urges the Government to develop a policy addressing the specific challenges faced by this particular vulnerable group of women. This policy should address, *inter alia*, the impoverishment, isolation, stigmatization, deprivation from their right to property inheritance, lack of resources for their children's education and protection in their vulnerable situations.

Mr. President,

Franciscans International welcomes Kenya's support for the recommendation put forward by Spain to ensure the equitable distribution of water and food to the entire population, especially during periods of drought⁴ and regrets that these two issues of crucial importance didn't receive significant attention during the review. To that end, FI urges the Government to develop strategies of managing water sources, including the construction of new big water dams and boreholes for both commercial and domestic usage. FI also calls on Kenya to develop a comprehensive policy on environmental conservation, which should include the protection of forests and wetlands.

Furthermore, FI recommends that the development of a strategic biofuel energy policy should not replace the use of food production areas with biofuel plants. To this end, the Government of Kenya should invest in research to prevent the negative impact of biofuel production on food production areas. Kenya should also undertake public financial management reforms to increase public investment in the agricultural sector.

Thank you Mr. President.

¹ This statement is also made on behalf of the Marist Foundation for International Solidarity (FMSI)

² A/HRC/15/8, § 101.51, § 101.50, § 101.47, § 101.48, § 101.49.

³ Ibid, § 102.7.

⁴ Ibid, § 101.93.