



Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations



Human Rights Council – 18th session

23 September 2011

Item 6: Consideration of UPR Report for Papua New Guinea.

Oral statement

Madame President,

Franciscans International, Edmund Rice International and Marist International Solidarity Foundation thank Papua New Guinea for its consideration and support of recommendations raised during its UPR earlier this year.

We appreciate the commitment expressed by Papua New Guinea to ratify the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and to consider ratification of the Convention Against Torture and its Optional Protocol, and we commend Papua New Guinea for its issuing of a standing invitation for all thematic special procedures.

We also appreciate Papua New Guinea's commitment to give priority to efforts towards ensuring universal, free and compulsory primary education and urge it to ensure that access to secondary and higher education is generally available. We also urge that the necessary resources are allocated to the educational system, especially to ensure professional teacher training and to provide vocational training for young people unable to find employment in the formal sector.

We note with appreciation Papua New Guinea's commitment towards the creation of a data-base for persons with disabilities to inform planning and policy development.

In this we would urge Papua New Guinea to establish partnerships with appropriate NGOs to assess the needs of those with disabilities, to conduct services for the education and rehabilitation of people with disabilities, and to engage in the necessary capacity building to educate community-based rehabilitation workers and health professionals who have contact with people with disabilities in the course of their work.

Thank you Madame President.