

Human Rights Council

18th Session

Item 6: UPR: Solomon Islands



21 September 2011

Speaker: Ms. Enkeleda Papa

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Madame President,

Marist International Solidarity Foundation and *Franciscans International* welcome the Solomon Islands delegation today.

We are encouraged by the Government's open invitation to all mandate holders of the United Nations *Special Procedures* to visit the country, as well as its commitment to establish a committee to monitor the implementation of the accepted recommendations, following this review.

We urge the Government to continue along the path of providing free and compulsory Primary and Junior Secondary education, accessible to all, including those children with disabilities, and to make this a priority in its National Planning.

We recognize the Government's commitment to address the gender imbalance in schools where girls are less likely to finish their basic primary education and are less likely to enrol in secondary classes.

We call on the Government to ensure that corporal punishment in the school and in the home, which is still prevalent, is duly prohibited and punished.

As regards to the quality of education, many teachers are currently under-qualified and many schools lack basic teaching resources. We strongly urge the Government to address these deficiencies so that all its children can enjoy their right to a quality education.

At the same time, it is a duty of the Government to inform its citizens of their basic human rights and we encourage the introduction of Human Rights education into the school curriculum.

This Non-government Coalition, FMSI and FI, is committed to ensuring that children attain their right to a good education and pledge our support in assisting the Government achieve this end.

Thank you Madame President.