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Oral Statement

For the 24th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

19 September 2012

Item 6 of the agenda: Consideration of the UPR report for Tuvalu

Speaker: Budi Tjahjono

Thank you Mr. President,

Franciscans International (FI), Edmund Rice International (ERI) and Earthjustice appreciate the commitment of the Government of Tuvalu in addressing human rights situation, especially related to the adverse impact of climate change. We commend the establishment of National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) to oversee the impact of climate change and its impacts on Tuvalu. We welcome Tuvalu's acceptance of the UPR recommendations related to climate change, notably the implementation of national priority on Climate Change Adaption Programme¹ and formulation of a plan for the management and mitigation of natural disasters which includes potential mass displacement of the population.²

We endorse the Human Rights Council view that climate change poses an immediate and far reaching threat to people and communities around the world and has adverse implications for the full enjoyment of human rights.³ While the negative consequences will only gradually touch on the lifestyles and activities of the people in developed States which are most responsible, the least developed countries and Small Island States which have contributed least to global greenhouse gas emissions will be the worst affected by global warming.⁴ This is the case of Tuvalu. The full enjoyment of the right to life, food, health, water and sanitation of the Tuvaluan are adversely affected. We commend the delegation of Costa Rica who has explicitly recognised during the dialogue its global responsibility toward the situation in Tuvalu and announced its contribution to prevent human rights violations by becoming carbon neutral.

We recommend the members of the Council to take concrete actions on climate change by the establishment of the UN Special Procedure on Climate Change and Human Rights, who will be able to take into consideration, *inter alia*, the principle of common but differentiated responsibility.⁵

We encourage the Government of Tuvalu to involve civil society, especially those who are most vulnerable to the adverse impact of climate change in the discussion on the mitigation policy, in particular women, children and people from the outer islands. We also encourage Tuvalu to be in contact with the delegation of Costa Rica to further develop possible collaboration in addressing the global responsibility on the adverse impact of climate change toward small states such as Tuvalu.

Thank you.

¹ Recommendation 81.19 and 17

² Recommendation 81.68

³ HRC/RES/18/22 OP.1

⁴ A/HRC/20/7 para 5.

⁵ As stipulated by article 3 of UNFCCC and A/HRC/RES/18/22

