



**Human Rights Council – 31st session
Item 6: UPR outcomes - RWANDA
Geneva, 16 March 2016**

Speaker: Mr. Evaristus Kasambwe

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Mr. President,

Franciscans International and FMSI welcome the UPR outcome of Rwanda and would like to recall attention to particularly relevant issues pertaining to children's rights.

We appreciate Rwanda's acceptance of several recommendations, especially those on education. However, we encourage Rwanda to reconsider the recommendation made by Latvia¹ to ensure that children with disabilities, children belonging to minority groups and the children of indigenous peoples also enjoy their right to education. In this regard, we would like to draw attention to the situation of refugee children. Whilst we acknowledge the efforts made by the government to provide these children with basic education, we are concerned that their access to the advanced level of the secondary education remains a challenge.

Moreover, there are issues concerning the quality of education and the disparities between public and private education which did not receive sufficient attention during the review. The current national education system still lacks adequate infrastructure, resources, and materials that are necessary for effective teaching and learning. Therefore, we urge the government to increase funding in education in order to create a system of education that upholds the right to free, universal, and quality education for all children, including those from marginalised groups.

Finally, Franciscans International and FMSI are convinced that a legal identity is an essential precondition to ensure children's rights. We therefore commend the intention of the Rwandan Government to improve its civil registration system. In this regard, we endorse the recommendations made by Mexico² and Turkey³ and strongly encourage Rwanda to take all necessary measures to ensure the registration of all children immediately after birth.

I thank you Mr. President.

¹ Recommendation 135.68, A/HRC/31/8 (Latvia): «Implement effective strategies and provide adequate funds to improve the quality of education and ensure inclusive and equal access to primary and secondary education for all children in Rwanda, including girls, children with disabilities and children belonging to minority groups and indigenous peoples. »

² Recommendation 133.15, A/HRC/31/8 (Mexico): «Implement urgent measures to guarantee the birth registration for all children born on your territory. »

³ Recommendation 133.16 A/HRC/31/8 (Turkey): «Take necessary measures to guarantee all children an immediate registration at birth by simplifying administrative procedures, while increasing awareness raising activities on the subject. »