

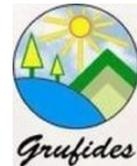
15 March 2013

UN Human Rights Council
22nd Session
Item 6: Universal Periodic Review



Consideration and adoption of the final outcome of the
Peru UPR

Oral Statement



Mr. President,

Franciscans International, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, and VIVAT International, together with our national partners GRUFIDES and the Center for Ethnic Development, wish to draw attention to specific UPR recommendations.

First, we acknowledge that Peru accepted all recommendations calling for targeted measures for racial minorities. We urge the Government to collect and report statistics that are disaggregated for race as a necessary condition to fulfill these commitments. We also call on the Government to analyze the differential impact on afro-Peruvian individuals and communities in the implementation of all UPR recommendations, especially those related to education.

Second, we note that the Government accepted a wide range of recommendations to promote economic, social, and cultural rights. We would like to highlight three specifically related to the involvement of indigenous peoples and peasant communities in planning and implementing development projects. We note, as well, that abuses related to mining activities had a prominent role in Peru's UPR. We recall that a human-rights based approach must be at the forefront of Peru's economic development policy aimed at eradicating poverty. Especially with regard to mining concessions, we urge the Government to ensure that the health and livelihoods of local communities are not threatened.

Finally, we are encouraged that Peru accepted recommendations to ensure democratic and peaceful resolution of social conflict, protect human-rights defenders, and prevent abuses by security forces. We urge the Government to refrain from using emergency declarations and arbitrary application of criminal law to inhibit legitimate human-rights activities. In regions such as Cajamarca, the current impunity for threats and violence against human rights defenders must be countered with rigorous investigations and prosecutions. Cases related to social conflicts should be immediately returned to local jurisdictions to ensure that social leaders facing charges have access to a defense.

Thank you, Mr. President.