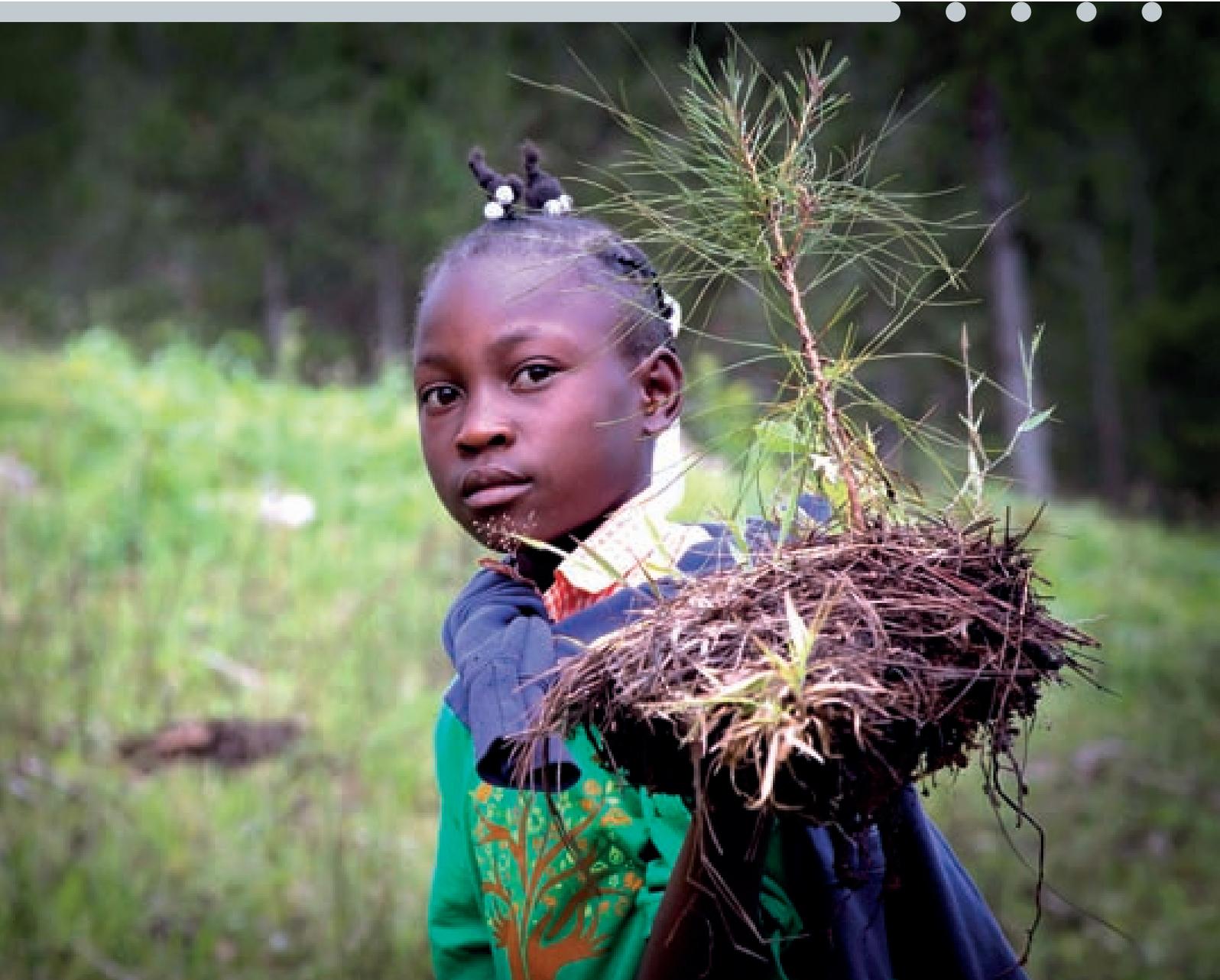




**Franciscans International**  
A voice at the United Nations

# Franciscans International



**Annual Report 2011**



## Donor acknowledgement

The work of FI is entirely dependent on the support of the Franciscan family, funding agencies, and Franciscan-hearted people. FI wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the Franciscan Orders and Congregations as well as the following funding agencies and foundations for their generous funding in 2011: Adoff (Netherlands); Adveniat (Germany); Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Inc. (USA); CAFOD (UK); Cordaid (Netherlands); Fastenopfer (Switzerland); Misereor (Germany); MISSIO (Germany); Missionszentrale der Franziskaner (Germany); Rosemary Khoo Foundation (Singapore); The Union That Nothing Be Lost (USA); Trócaire (Ireland); Victorinox (Switzerland); Wheaton Franciscans Sisters Corporation (USA).

# Franciscans International Annual Report 2011

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Acronyms and Abbreviations	4
Introduction	5
Working together to make a difference	6
<b>Franciscans International Regional Programmes</b>	<b>9</b>
Africa Programme	10
Americas Program	12
Asia Pacific Programme	14
Europe Programme	16
<b>Thematic Focuses</b>	<b>17</b>
Contemporary Forms of Slavery Programme	17
Environment Programme	18
Indigenous Peoples Programme	19
<b>Finance</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Outreach</b>	<b>22</b>



*FI International Board of Directors in March 2011 (L–R): John Doctor OFM (IBD President), Regina Holtz fsp, Denise Boyle fmdm (FI Executive Director), Averil Swanton tssf, Markus Heinze OFM (acting Chief Financial Officer), Patricia Tan Huat Neo sfo, Markus Fuhrmann OFM, Francisco Nel Leudo Murillo OFM conv., John Celichowski OFM cap., Doug Clorey sfo. Absent: José Martorell tor.*

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>AICHR</b>	ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of South East Asian Nations
<b>CEDAW</b>	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
<b>CESCR</b>	Committee on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights
<b>CSD</b>	Commission on Sustainable Development
<b>CSW</b>	Commission on the Status of Women
<b>ECOSOC</b>	Economic and Social Council
<b>ESCAP</b>	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>FI</b>	Franciscans International
<b>HRC</b>	Human Rights Council
<b>IBD</b>	International Board of Directors
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>IP</b>	Indigenous Peoples
<b>JPIC</b>	Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation
<b>NGO</b>	Non Governmental Organisation
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the High Commission for Human Rights
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UPR</b>	Universal Periodic Review



**Sr. Denise Boyle fmdm**  
*FI Executive Director*



**Fr. John Doctor OFM**  
*President IBD*

## Introduction

The Mont Blanc Bridge in Geneva stretches across Lake Lemman, linking the Alps on one side with the Jura Mountains and the United Nations (UN) on the other. Bridges by their very nature evoke symbolism, so we often describe Franciscans International (FI) as a ‘bridge’ between our Franciscan brothers and sisters working with the most vulnerable and our work at the UN. FI addresses systemic injustice through the UN and strives to influence decision-makers. Most bridges facilitate two way traffic; FI does this by communicating back to the ‘grassroots’ the outcome of our advocacy and lobbying work at the UN.

During 2011, FI focused on justice issues of children worldwide in many reports submitted to the UN, including those for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) which reflect the human rights record of the country under review. Issues like child labour (Uganda, India, Cameroon), the trafficking of children (India, Philippines, Canada), the right to education (Tanzania, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Burkino Faso), street children (Cameroon and India), and maternal and child mortality (Uganda), were some justice issues pertaining to children that FI addressed at the international level.

Our professional, hardworking advocates implemented the integrated advocacy programme, generously complemented by our competent administration team. Many Franciscans provided FI with important information on justice issues we addressed at the UN. FI invited Franciscans to come to the UN to present reports and to meet diplomats, as their firsthand information is invaluable in giving a true picture of the widespread consequences of injustice.

The ongoing implementation of the strategic plan ensured we focused on our priorities and worked more effectively. In August, the tragic death of Mateusz Tuniewicz RIP, the Regional Director for Asia Pacific, came as a huge shock. We mourned a valued colleague and a friend to many Franciscans.

In 2011, the International Board of Directors (IBD) worked generously and professionally to guide the direction of FI in its global mission. They continued to be actively involved in governance issues like overseeing strict cost cutting measures to ensure a balanced budget, ratifying tax exemption status for FI in Switzerland, furthering the process of obtaining legal status for FI in Thailand, reviewing the IBD Charter, and supporting the consolidated audit.

A heartfelt ‘thank you’ to each one who supported FI in 2011: our generous donors, the Franciscan Family particularly for your prayers and those who helped us to finish the year in the black; our partners Edmund Rice International (ERI) and the Marist International Solidarity Foundation (FMSI); and our colleagues and friends in other non-governmental organisations and at the UN. Together we are so much more effective than when we work alone!

***“Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible,  
and suddenly you are doing the impossible!”***

Attributed to St. Francis

**Sr. Denise Boyle fmdm**  
*FI Executive Director*

**Fr. John Doctor OFM**  
*President IBD*



Ms. Francesca Restifo  
International Advocacy Director

## Working together to make a difference

### Advocacy: the long-term solution to address injustice

...“We must become the change we want to see in the world” (Mahatma Gandhi). Human rights violations occur each second in every corner and region of the world, irrespective of North, South, East and West, in both developed and developing countries. Victims are usually from the poorest and most vulnerable strata of society. The role of civil society and the international community in addressing these abuses is becoming increasingly important to give a voice to the voiceless, power to the powerless and to re-unite forces to make a real difference.

Recent UN figures sadly show that worldwide two million children die every year because of water-borne diseases, 885 million people lack clean water, and 2.6 billion people have no access to basic sanitation. In 2011, nearly 8 million children died before reaching the age of five and the highest prevalence of this mortality rate occurred in the poorest and most remote areas. The same applies to high maternal mortality rates in regions where access to medical services and treatment for pregnant women is denied because of high medical costs and physical inaccessibility of health centres. The approximately 370 million Indigenous Peoples, living in 70 countries around the world, are too often victims of violence by non-state actors or transnational corporations wishing to profit from their lands through mega-projects and extractive industry operations. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that 246 million children aged between 5 and 17 are currently engaged in child labour, representing 15% of the world’s children, and about 35% of children living in Sub-Saharan Africa. During 2011 alone, more than 12 million people worldwide were trafficked for forced labour and sexual exploitation, 98% of whom were women and children, and often treated as criminals without access to justice.

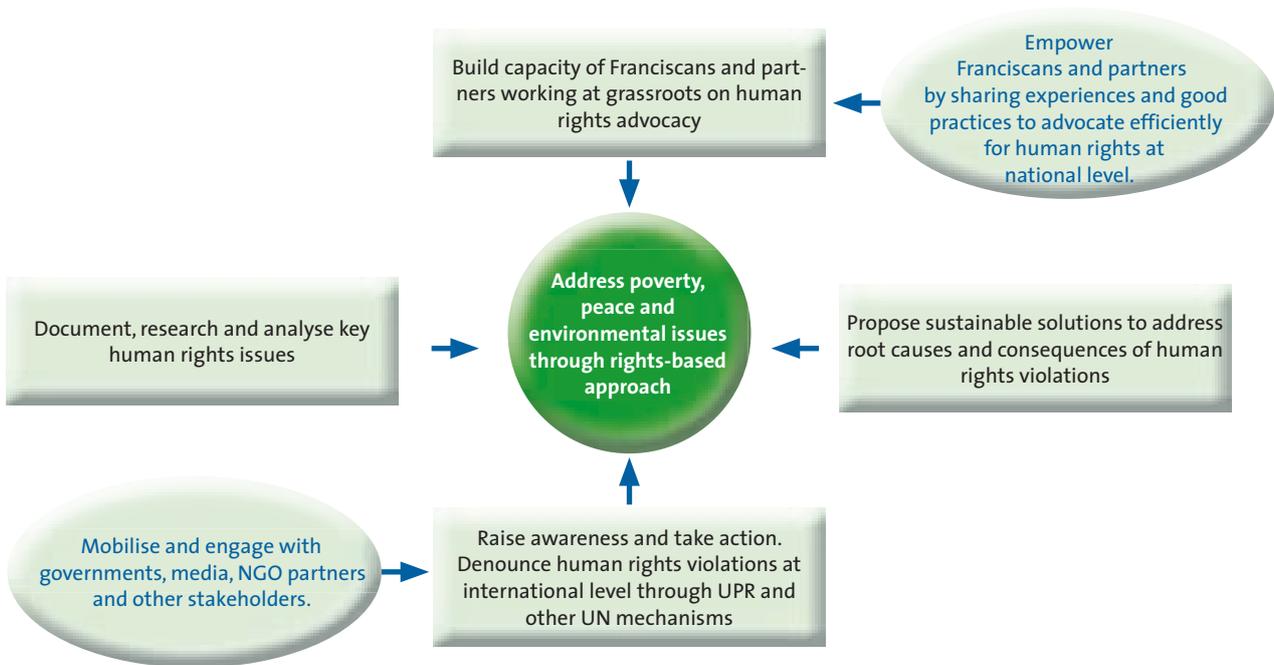
The role played by Advocacy can be vital in combating and curbing these abuses. Advocacy is the process that empowers people to participate in decisions that affect theirs or others’ lives, and to find long-term solutions to their concerns. Whenever changes in policies are needed, Advocacy has a role to play; Advocacy is the tool that NGOs and Civil Society use to influence key leaders to prioritise the needs of millions of voiceless, marginalised, and excluded people around the world.

*“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”*

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights

It is through Advocacy that FI puts into practice its commitment to address human rights violations thanks to the efforts of its three regional offices in Bangkok, Geneva and New York. Their close collaboration bridges the international context with the daily realities faced by the three regions in which FI is active, namely, Africa-Europe, the Americas, and Asia-Pacific. FI Advocacy strategy is built around two main pillars of input from Franciscans working at grassroots, and international and UN policies. The FI Advocacy approach consists of influencing the international decision-making process through negotiations with the UN, diplomats and other international actors to find long-term solutions. In this respect, FI uses the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) as the driving mechanism that connects grassroots to the UN, the national to the international. This strategy also allows FI to use a rights-based approach to address the root causes of injustice and advocate for better policies and programmes that respect the rights of all peoples.

FI helps make a difference by working directly with affected people and sharing their concerns at the UN. We raise awareness on specific issues, ensure the implementation of UPR recommendations, denounce human rights emergencies through appeals for immediate action, participate in negotiations, speak up at UN meetings, circulate position papers, and build the capacity of Franciscans and partners working at the grassroots to advocate for their rights.



FI Advocacy achievements in 2011 reflect and respect this duality (linking grassroots to the UN) in each of the activities carried out. For example, in 2011, FI worked on the UPR of 28 countries, submitted 26 position papers during the UN Human Rights Council sessions, circulated 10 urgent appeals calling for immediate action, organised 16 workshops in different countries around the world, and trained around 400 Franciscans and their partners working in the field.

Many of our achievements in 2011 set the new objectives for 2012. Whether we want to improve the lives of millions of victims of gender violence, or address child malnutrition, improve child education, curb maternal mortality, end torture, or alleviate extreme poverty, FI strongly believes that Advocacy is the best method for ensuring sustainable solutions and concrete change. Working for human rights and dignity for all requires continuing efforts, energies and synergies, time and resources. There is still much that can be done, however, and despite these challenges, FI remains passionate and committed to promoting human rights and fighting injustice around the world.

  
**Francesca Restifo**  
*International Advocacy Director*



# Annual Report 2011

## Franciscans International – Regional Programmes

The three regional offices of FI, in Bangkok, Geneva, and New York, conduct advocacy and capacity-building in each respective world region; Asia Pacific, Europe and Africa, and the Americas. The regional director for each office manages a committed staff team of advocates and administration who work with a regional network of Franciscans, other NGOs and UN representatives. Each regional programme works on human rights issues that are addressed by the UN. At the UN in Geneva, FI works closely with the Human Rights Council (HRC), more specifically with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and special treaty bodies (Eg. Committee on the Rights of the Child).

In New York, FI is a member of the Security Council Non Governmental Organization Committee in order to address issues of conflict and reconciliation. It also works with the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to highlight gender discrimination and the Commission on Sustainable Development to address environmental change and its impact on the poor. In Bangkok, FI directs justice issues through either the Geneva or New York office and also with various UN regional bodies or offices including the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) and ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

### Focus countries in 2011



*Australia, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Ethiopia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Iran, Jamaica, Kenya, Malawi, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Switzerland, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor Leste, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, Venezuela*



**Fr. Markus Heinze OFM**  
Regional Director for Europe and Africa

## Africa Programme

Since its creation in 2005, the Africa Programme aims to support the work carried out by Franciscans and partners working at grassroots in Sub-Saharan Africa to bring human rights abuses that cannot be addressed at national level to the UN. FI worked to consolidate links and strengthen the capacity of its partners in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania. The programme focused on key priorities including extreme poverty, the HIV and AIDS pandemic, harmful traditional practices, contemporary forms of slavery, Indigenous Peoples' rights, and the environment. Through in-country capacity-building and providing technical assistance FI helped to empower a large number of NGO partners with the aim of promoting concrete change at national level through effective advocacy strategies. Following this approach, the Africa Programme in 2012 intends to advance the work already started in West and Central Africa while following up on its advocacy activities with Franciscans and partners in Eastern and Southern Africa.

### Addressing the Issue of “Witch Children” in northern Benin

As a follow-up to its activities on the issue of “witch children” in Benin, Franciscans International organised an international conference on “Violence against Children as a Result of Harmful Traditional Practices” during the 16th session of the HRC. The purpose of the event was to raise aware-

ness among the international community about infanticide practices based on traditional beliefs and encourage an effective response to this issue at both national and international levels. The conference, chaired by the Permanent Delegation of the European Union to the UN, was widely attended by NGOs, UN agencies, and government representatives. On this occasion, FI invited two Franciscans from Benin who are working at the grassroots to discuss the issue of “witch children” in their country. The event was successful in mobilising different stakeholders to examine ways to ensure the implementation of the recommendations put forward on the issue during the UPR of Benin in 2008.

### Addressing the Issue of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) in Uganda

The rehabilitation of former child-soldiers of the LRA in Uganda is an issue that FI is closely monitoring at the HRC in Geneva and at the UN Security Council in New York. Deeply shocked by the attacks and atrocities committed by the LRA and their serious humanitarian and human rights consequences, FI firmly believes that this issue should remain under the spotlight of the international community. With a view to drawing as much attention to this problem as possible, FI engaged in dialogue throughout 2011 with key stakeholders such as NGO representatives, UN representatives, and diplomats who are dealing with the issue of human rights violations by the LRA. Attention was focused



*Fr. Pierre Bio Sanou reports at the FI panel discussion: “I have conveyed that infanticide as a result of this harmful and traditional practice is against human dignity. There is no way we can justify infanticide in any culture. Infanticide must stop. The right to life must be respected. We urgently ask the government to take action against those who perpetuate such barbaric acts.”*

on the situation of former child-soldiers in Northern Uganda who have escaped the LRA and are in urgent need of rehabilitation.

### Capacity-building in East Africa

The primary focus of the project was to follow up previous work undertaken by FI in East Africa to denounce human rights violations in the region and bring these violations to the attention of the international community. The main objective was to continue to build the capacity of Franciscans and partners to engage with the UN human rights mechanisms, especially the UPR process. FI submitted stakeholders' reports to the HRC and invited Franciscans from the relevant countries to Geneva to engage in lobbying activities with government representatives in order to ensure that their concerns were taken into consideration during the review. FI also submitted an alternative report to the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on the situation of women in Kenya. The CEDAW report was a valuable opportunity to reinforce FI's UPR recommendations related to women's rights.

FI invited two Franciscans engaged in women's rights to attend the session and speak-up before the Government and the CEDAW Committee.

During 2011, FI organised in-country workshops and national consultations in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda (including participants from Tanzania). The main focus of the workshops was to assist Franciscans and partners in monitoring the implementation of the UN recommendations at grassroots following the previous UPR reviews of these countries. They were well-attended by Franciscans and NGO partners and concluded with a one-day round-table discussion to engage participants in a constructive dialogue towards a better involvement in the UPR process.

**FI addressed human rights abuses in nine African countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania and Uganda, in relation to extreme poverty, the HIV and AIDS pandemic, harmful traditional practices, contemporary forms of slavery, Indigenous Peoples' rights and the environment.**



*Ethiopia: FI in-country workshop on economic, social and cultural rights.*



Fr. Michael Lasky ofm conv.  
Regional Director for the Americas

## Americas Program

FI made great strides in strengthening its Americas Program during 2011. FI made important interventions at the UN, conducted capacity-building and fact-finding missions, and greatly expanded the network of FI partners throughout the region. The Americas Program has also expanded its advocacy capacity and currently works in all of the major languages in the region: English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

In 2011, FI deepened ties with Franciscans and partners through capacity-building and collaborative advocacy strategies. This has produced particularly strong and fruitful working relationships in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, and the USA. FI's intervention and support focused on bringing the concerns and priorities identified in these contexts to the international stage in order to support national advocacy efforts.

This was also an important year of re-connection with significant outreach efforts to Argentina, Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, and Venezuela as the Program seeks to be present in each of the five sub-regions of the Americas. The outreach has resulted in FI's increased familiarity with the human rights situation in each context, a better understanding of the unique work of FI and of the UN among the Franciscans working at the grassroots and their partners, plus concrete plans for collaborative advocacy work in 2012.

*"FI calls on the Government of Bolivia to stop the construction of sections of the highway leading to and from TIPNIS; to enter into full and binding consultation with the Indigenous People holding rights over the TIPNIS territory; and to carry out independent technical studies of the social-environmental and cultural impacts of the proposed highway."*

FI Urgent appeal on Bolivia, 28 September

### Urgent Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Bolivia

Bolivian Franciscan communities raised concerns over a trans-Amazon highway that was about to be constructed through a national park and protected indigenous lands. FI presented an urgent appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Special Rapporteurs are part of a series of UN special procedures meant

to bring UN human rights protections closer to the ground. The urgent appeal outlined the serious threat that this posed to the ecosystems of the area and to the lives of the Indigenous Peoples that reside there. The Special Rapporteur was grateful for the information and confirmed his commitment to take appropriate action to defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples before the Bolivian Government. Under mounting national and international pressure, the Bolivian Government suspended the highway project.

### Defending the Rights of Vulnerable Groups in the UPR

FI, in collaboration with Franciscans and partners working at the local and national levels, engaged with the UPR to advocate for the rights of vulnerable and marginalised groups in Brazil and Peru. FI organised national workshops in both countries to build capacity in relation to the UN human rights mechanisms, to network with key national partners, identify priorities and analyse root causes, and to begin the process of developing a written submission to raise awareness vis-à-vis the international community.

FI's submission for the UPR of Brazil focused on the extremely precarious situation of female inmates detained in state institutions, which is a priority group for Franciscans ministering at grassroots. FI's report also documented the lack of State protection for human rights defenders in Brazil with a particular emphasis on the heightened risk of physical violence, threats, and judicial harassment to those who defend the rights of the landless and the indigenous, and those who are outspoken on environmental issues. This focus was in response to threats of physical violence and arbitrary judicial sanctions against Franciscans and some partners.

The Peru workshops analysed a number of pressing human rights concerns among the diverse group of participants from Franciscan communities and local and national human rights organisations. Sessions involved discussions of the root causes of



*Brazil: Fr. Rodrigo Peret of fm meets with local community groups to take action on the issue of land rights.*

systemic injustice including the right to adequate housing and dignified living conditions, the rights of the child, the rights of Afro-Peruvian communities, and the rights of domestic maids to dignified working conditions. The latter two were chosen as priorities for inclusion in the written submission to Peru's upcoming UPR.

## Regional Capacity and Network-building

FI held a regional capacity-building workshop in Bolivia with participants from Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela. The workshop introduced the group to UN human rights mechanisms and facilitated the development of strategies for the Franciscan Family and FI to address the root causes of extreme poverty through a rights-based approach. Participants returned to their countries and their networks and worked throughout the year to share this knowledge through national-level capacity-building strategies.

In response to needs expressed by Franciscans across the region, the Americas Program assumed environmental justice and its relationship to the human rights of the most vulnerable as a priority thematic focus. FI participated in a regional conference for the Americas focusing on analysing the shared regional challenges on this issue and developing advocacy and awareness-raising strategies. Through ongoing regional networking FI is bringing these concerns and priorities to the international policy-making level and advocacy for Rio+20.

**FI collaborated with local partners to advocate for the rights of vulnerable groups, including ethnic minorities, Indigenous Peoples, domestic servants, female prisoners, children, and human rights defenders in Bolivia, Brazil, Jamaica, Peru, and the United States.**



**Mr. Mateusz Tuniewicz (RIP)**  
Regional Director for Asia Pacific



**Mr. Sanjay V. Gathia**  
Interim Regional Director for Asia Pacific

## Asia Pacific Programme

In 2011, the FI Asia Pacific Programme made significant progress in expanding, consolidating and building the capacity of the Franciscan network, particularly in Australia, India, Indonesia (West Papua), Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste. The priority issues included contemporary forms of slavery (CFS), Indigenous Peoples, trafficking in persons, extreme poverty, and the environment. The focus of FI's advocacy was to influence the decision-making processes both at the UN as well as at national level based on the input from Franciscans at grassroots.

## Capacity-building in India

In October 2011, FI organised three workshops in Bangalore, Raipur and Guwahati in India with the objective of continuing to build the capacity of Franciscans and partners to engage with the UN human rights mechanisms, particularly the UPR. The workshops also succeeded in gathering and sharing information and concerns affecting the various regions of the country. Among the issues raised were the right to food, discrimination against Dalits, the rights of Indigenous Peoples, contemporary forms of slavery, and the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on the human rights of the most vulnerable. In relation to the right to food, strong concerns were raised about access to food and the negative impact of corruption on the availability of food among marginalised and vulnerable communities. On the issue of Dalit rights, concerns were raised about their ongoing marginalisation and exclusion. The outcome of these workshops was a UPR report giving a full picture of the human rights situation in India which was submitted to the UN in November 2011. India is scheduled for review through the UPR in May 2012.

*"FI strongly supports the idea of a social protection floor. In human rights terms this idea means that all people – and in particular those living in extreme poverty – have legal entitlements or social protection guarantees provided by the State. [...] In such a framework persons are empowered and become right-holders."*

FI Joint Statement to the HRC on Extreme Poverty

*The Government of the Philippines should: "Immediately sign, ratify and implement the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol on the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)".*

FI recommendation for the Philippines UPR



*"I joined the FI UPR Workshop to get some practical knowledge on social issues, but I have learned much more than what I expected before".*

Comment from Franciscan Sister from Guwahati, India on the UPR Workshop in India

## Addressing the Human Rights Situation in West Papua, Indonesia

As in previous years, FI continued to address the human rights situation in West Papua, Indonesia. One of the main activities was the publication of the report 'Human Rights in Papua 2010/2011', co-published with the Faith Based Network on West Papua (FBN) and the Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC). The report portrayed the bleak reality of the abuse of civil and political rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights in Papua. More specifically, the report drew attention to the hardship faced by national and international civil society as well as by local human rights defenders. Too often they are the victims of intimidation, harassment and arbitrary detention on the charge of makar (treason) while exercising their right to freedom of expression in their struggle for justice and accountability.

In November 2011, FI organised a round-table discussion on the report. This was attended by representatives of the FBN, Geneva for Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, Papua Peace Network, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, TAPOL, World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT), and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the UN in Geneva. The discussion aimed to draw attention to the gravity of the human rights situation in West Papua and to urge the Indonesian Government to comply with their international obligations. At the end of 2011, the President of Indonesia made a public commitment to start a dialogue with the representatives of the Papuan people as part of a broader solution to address the situation. In 2012, FI will keep working on West Papuans' rights and advocate at the UN during the 19th session of the HRC and the UPR session on Indonesia.



*West Papua: Girls from a community of Indigenous Peoples.*

## Europe Programme

During 2011, the Europe Programme focused on developing the relationship with Franciscans and NGO partners in the region through capacity-building to engage them in advocacy initiatives with FI at both national and international levels. FI followed-up on UPR reports submitted in previous years on Italy and France and involved national partners in Germany to ensure concrete implementation of UPR recommendations particularly related to migrants' rights, environmental issues, women's rights, issues affecting the elderly, torture, and human trafficking. In addition, FI organised the Advanced Human Rights Workshop in Geneva to provide participants with an insight into the practical work of the UN. In July 2011, FI co-organised a workshop in Paris with our NGO partner ATD Fourth World to address the issues of extreme poverty in Europe.

Throughout the year FI also laid the foundation to expand the Europe Programme to Eastern European countries and the Balkans which are regions critically affected by serious human rights violations.



Geneva: Participants in the Advanced Workshop attended sessions at the UN.

## Geneva Advanced Human Rights Workshop

In 2011, FI organised its annual Advanced Workshop on the UN human rights mechanisms, with a specific focus on the UPR and Special Procedures. It was strategically held in parallel to the 18th Annual Meeting of the UN Special Procedures in Geneva, providing a direct link between the UN and Franciscans and partners working at grassroots. The Advanced Workshop ran as a follow-up to previous advocacy activities conducted in the relevant countries and aimed at strengthening Franciscans' engagement with the UN human rights system.

FI organised a workshop in Assisi for Italian Franciscans to learn more about the UPR and other UN mechanisms that can be used to address human rights violations in Italy.

## FI Workshop in Brussels

As part of the Inter-Franciscan Missionary Programme organised in Brussels, FI delivered a workshop on human rights advocacy. The workshop enabled the participants to gain an insight into FI's advocacy work at the UN and explored ways in which they can collaborate to voice their concerns at the international level. Participants discussed the main human rights violations occurring in their own countries, including Italy, Poland and Germany. They were trained in writing country-specific reports on these concerns and making recommendations on how to effect positive change.

## Thematic Focuses

### Contemporary Forms of Slavery Programme

During 2011, the CFS Programme raised the awareness of the international community about modern forms of slavery, their causes and consequences, and stressed the need for decisive and effective action from policy-makers. This went hand-in-hand with identifying Franciscans and partners working on the issue at grassroots and building their capacity to engage in active advocacy against CFS. FI continued collaboration with the UN experts dealing with these issues, notably the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children.

#### Conference on Trafficking

FI, in partnership with Global Alliance against Traffic in Women (GAATW) and the Permanent Mission of Italy, organised an international conference on barriers to migrant workers and trafficked persons in accessing remedies in conjunction with the release of the report of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, on 'The Right to Remedy' during the 17th session of the HRC. The panel discussion focused on discrimination as one such barrier. The event helped increase awareness of the need for governments to comply with their human rights obligations to ensure victims' access to remedies without discrimination of any kind. Such a need was also highlighted in FI's written and oral statements submitted for the attention of the HRC.

FI raised the issue of contemporary forms of slavery in its UPR reports on Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, India, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda.

FI conducted research on the current situation of contemporary forms of slavery in India, to be published in 2012.

#### Raising Awareness of Trafficking in the USA

During International Women's Day, FI organised an event on the trafficking of women and girls entitled "Hear It First Hand: Trafficking Stories, Policy and Best Practices". Topics such as government corruption, debt bondage, poverty and rehabilitation of victims were discussed. This event was followed by a Human Trafficking Symposium in October 2011 in partnership with Franciscan Action Network, the Franciscan Federation, and the Institute for Policy Research and Catholic Studies at the Catholic University of America to discuss ways to better address US policies and practices at the borders.

#### Workshop on ILO convention on Domestic Workers

FI, in partnership with a network of Catholic-inspired NGOs and their partners, held a two-day workshop in anticipation of the adoption of the ILO Convention on Domestic Workers and the development of an advocacy strategy to encourage its ratification. Over sixty NGOs and labour groups from five continents, including domestic workers, participated in the conference held in June. The Convention was adopted on 17 June 2011.



India: Domestic workers are often unpaid or receive inadequate wages with no overtime pay, despite their heavy workloads and very long hours.

## Environment Programme

Since the development of the current Environment Programme in 2007, FI has aimed to enhance the capacity of Franciscans working at grassroots to address environmental issues at international level through a human rights-based approach, and to raise specific awareness of the impact of environmental issues and climate change on human rights.

### Right to Water and Sanitation

In 2011, the priority issue of the Environment Programme was the right to water and sanitation. This stemmed from the positive step taken on 28 July 2010 by the UN General Assembly which asserted that “safe drinking water and sanitation is a human right, essential for the full enjoyment of life and all other human rights.” In recognition of humanity’s fundamental need for water for our survival, the General Assembly urged governments to ensure that each person has at least 20 liters of clean water per day. Following on from this recommendation, FI initiated advocacy activities aimed at pressuring governments to implement UN standards. At the 18th session of the HRC interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Water and Sanitation, FI delivered an oral statement urging governments to guarantee the right to water for people who are poor and marginalised.

FI published ‘The Right to Water and Sanitation: a Practical Guide’ to inform civil society actors and to raise awareness at grassroots about the right to water as an internationally recognised human right. It develops a methodology to advocate for the right to safe drinking water and sanitation through a bottom-up approach. The process is very practical in that it encourages people to consider the difficulties around the issue of access to water from the level of field investigation up to the international stage. The guide challenges people to



*Indonesia: Inaccessibility of clean water and sanitation infrastructure deprives people of their human right to water and sanitation.*

consider the role and responsibility of governments in relation to their international obligations to respect, protect and promote the right to water. To allow its universal and sustainable use, the guide is available in English, Spanish and Italian. A French translation is to be published in 2012. Workshops using the guide as a basis for training on the issue of the right to water and sanitation are scheduled to take place in 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya for participants from English-speaking African countries.

**Ensuring a safe and sufficient water supply as a human right is becoming a serious and urgent matter that governments must address without further delay. Leaders must consider this a priority across all regions and countries.**

## Indigenous Peoples Programme

Indigenous Peoples' rights remain one of the key focus areas of FI advocacy work. Some of the Franciscans within FI's network are themselves members of indigenous communities, particularly in Bolivia, India, Indonesia and the Philippines. Indigenous Peoples are often marginalised and suffer most from the negative impacts of development activities such as mining, irrigation and energy projects, road construction and plantation work. As a result, they are faced with discrimination, poverty, poor health and unemployment. Throughout 2011, FI was committed to working on the rights of Indigenous Peoples through UN mechanisms.

### Urgent Appeals on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

In May 2011, FI submitted an urgent appeal to the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples regarding the situation of indigenous communities affected by the Pohang Iron and Steel Company (POSCO) project in Jagatsinghpur District, Orissa, India. This project has endangered local forest areas and the livelihoods of indigenous people, farmers and fisher folk living there. FI appealed to the Special Rapporteur to request the Government of India to suspend the authorisation of the POSCO project and ensure that they abide by national and international laws. As a result of this and additional appeals made by FI and other organisations, the POSCO project was suspended.

### UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)

In May, FI participated in the 10th session of UNPFII at the UN Headquarters, New York. This was an important opportunity to initiate advocacy activity via the UN mechanisms dedicated to the rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to develop a network with similar organisations.

*"FI calls on the Government of India to cease displacements and forced evictions of Adivasis, tribal, and other Indigenous Peoples which have been carried out in connection with development and hydro-electric projects. FI also urges India to ratify ILO Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal People".*

FI recommendation for the UPR of India.

*"FI calls on the Indonesian Government to modify the existing legislation and practices which discriminate against and override the rights of Indigenous Peoples, especially Investment Law No 25/2007, and Presidential Regulation 65/2006. FI urges the companies operating in Papua to respect the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and to comply with the UN guiding principles on business and human rights."*

FI recommendation for the UPR of Indonesia.



# Finance Report 2011

## Strategic objectives

During the 2011 financial year, FI continued its objective of managing the overall cost structure to meet income and reduce expenditure wherever possible. This was achieved as far as possible without prejudice to the delivery of the advocacy work at the heart of our mission.

Financial circumstances at the start of the year necessitated certain structural adjustments such as the downsizing of the office in New York, and an organisation-wide freeze on new hiring. Subsequent donor-designated funding helped alleviate the staffing position to some extent, but FI continues with a few positions vacant and others filled on short-term contracts.

A once-off anonymous donation of EUR300,000 in the second quarter of the year helped significantly in allowing FI to see through the year, alleviate the cash position created by a significant foundation which halved the funds promised, and fulfill its intention of paying off long-term loans by one third. Fundraising activities aim to diversify income sourcing across geographic regions and currencies to improve financial resilience and ameliorate the high reliance on Euro income, which still amounted to 60% of funds received.

The annual audit across all three offices ensures compliance with local fiduciary requirements, whilst enabling continuous improvement in internal financial reporting and controls.

## Contextual challenges

As an international organisation FI receives donations in a range of currencies. This requires certain currency exchange assumptions in the budgeting process, and the unavoidable risks related to international currency fluctuations. 2011 proved to be challenging in this respect.

The global finance and investment climate and shifts in government policy led to some unexpected yet significant cutbacks from existing funding agencies. FI met such circumstances by further expanding the scope of fundraising and new development initiatives. In this regard, the introduction in 2011 of the three-year pledge is aimed at ensuring financial resilience (predictable income stream), and to enable stable budgeting and management of the organisation.

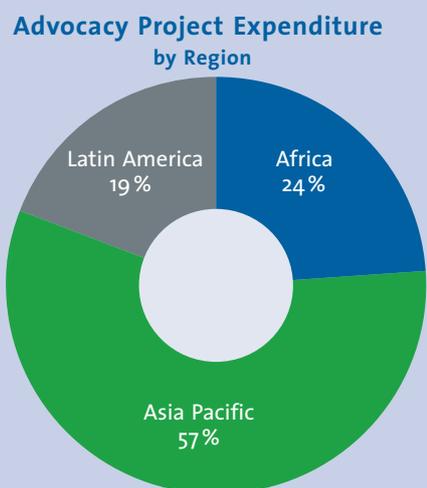
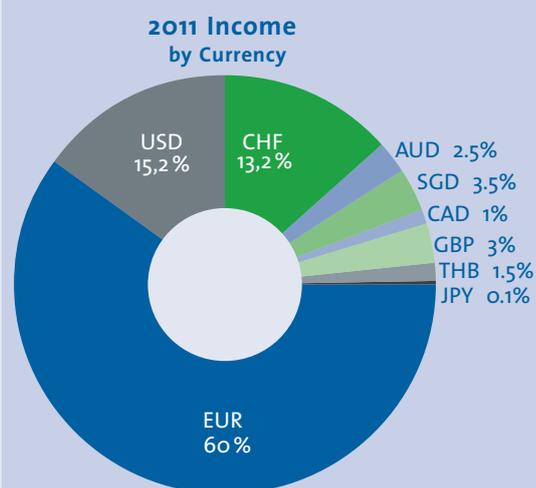
A key objective of FI is to ensure that as much funding as possible directly addresses the demands of our Mission and the expectations of Franciscans around the world. Consequently, we continue to make progress in weighting expenditure towards advocacy activities as opposed to core expenses. However this needs to be seen in the light of the structural expenses associated with maintaining three regional offices at key United Nations locations.

## Looking ahead

Overall, FI has ended the 2011 financial year in good standing, and strategically poised to meet the objectives of 2012. Despite setbacks during 2011, FI continues to receive financial and in-kind support from an expanding range of donors and funders. This has allowed us in turn to respond to the growing demand from more countries and more Franciscans to represent their concerns at the various fora of the UN.

# Financial Summary 2011 (audited)

Operations	CHF
<b>Income</b>	
Franciscan orders and congregations	771,947
Extraordinary donation	378,880
Funding agencies and foundations	595,956
Rose Marie Khoo Foundation	86,101
Other donations	46,584
	<b>1,879,468</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Advocacy	578,572
Communications, Animation, and Fundraising	284,008
Governance and Management	131,410
Core administration costs (three offices)	650,414
	<b>1,644,404</b>
<b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>	
Accumulated foreign exchange loss	39,680
Interest, bank charges, depreciation	22,076
Loan repayment	75,079
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Long term loan at 31.12.2011	106,151



## Outreach

The outreach programme helps to keep a diverse range of people interested, informed and involved in the advocacy work of FI and how their support is making a difference. All communications, when possible, are available in English, French, Spanish, German and Italian.

### Online Media

The new-look website, monthly e-newsletter “Franciscan Voice”, and Facebook page were launched to help keep communities and individuals in touch with all the latest news and activities of FI.

### Presentations

FI was invited by Franciscan communities and church groups from all world regions to give presentations on its advocacy work. Key events included: hosting the ‘Second Regional Gathering’ for over 50 Franciscan leaders from 13 countries in the Asia Pacific region on the occasion of the third anniversary of the operation of the FI Bangkok office; presenting FI’s work to 250 Secular Franciscans in Nantes, France; and participating in the OFM International Conference on the Amazons in Quito.

### Outstanding Service Award 2011

FI presented the award for ‘Outstanding Service to Franciscans International’ to Fr. Stephen Bliss OFM. The former Provincial of Australia and current Pastor of a Franciscan Parish in Brisbane helped initiate the idea of the FI Bangkok office to serve the Franciscan Orders and Congregations in Asia Pacific. Fr. John Doctor OFM, President of the IBD, in presenting the award to Fr. Stephen, said that he symbolised the hard work and commitment of all those who made the establishment of the Bangkok office a reality in 2008.



*Bangkok: (Centre) Br. Stephen Bliss with (L-R) Mr. Mateusz Tuniewicz (Regional Director for Asia Pacific) (RIP), Sr. Denise Boyle fmdm (Executive Director), Fr. John Doctor OFM (IBD President) at the 'FI Second Regional Leaders Gathering'.*

## Human Rights Competition for Youth

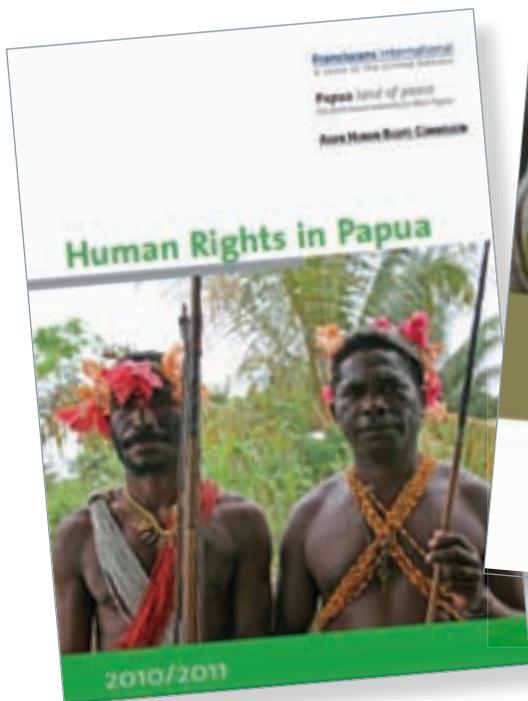
Five winners of the 'FI Human Rights Competition' spent a day with FI at the UN. Schools, universities and churches in Europe and the USA ran the competition, which was based on the question "Why do human rights matter to me?"

## Publications

FI produced two publications during the course of 2011. "Human Rights in Papua, 2010/2011", published in collaboration with the Faith Based Network and the Asian Human Rights Commission, provides a detailed overview of the current human rights situation in Papua. "The Right to Water and Sanitation: A Practical Guide" was published in partnership with WaterLex and serves as a resource for civil society actors working on this issue.



*Geneva: (L-R) Christine Milroy, Sr. Denise Boyle fmdm (Executive Director), Chloe Holliday, Briony Pitkin attended the Human Rights Council in Geneva*



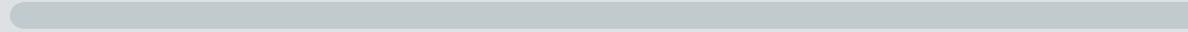
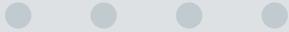


## Our vision

*A global community built on Franciscan values, in which the dignity of every person is respected; resources are shared equitably; the environment sustained; and nations and peoples live in peace.*

## Our mission

*We are a Franciscan voice at the United Nations, protecting the vulnerable, the forgotten, and our wounded earth.*



## Franciscans International Regional Offices

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