

**35th Session of the UN Human Rights Council**

**Clustered ID with the WG on transnational corporations and human rights**

**Geneva - 8th June 2017**

Mr. President,

Dominicans for Justice and Peace and Centro de Derechos Humanos “Fray Francisco de Vitoria OP”, A.C. are pleased that the WG on transnational corporations and human rights visited Mexico last year and welcome its recent report. In the light of our own observations on the ground, we are particularly concerned that Mexico is prioritizing economic interests of transnational corporations over the protection of human rights of its people, especially vulnerable groups such as the agricultural workers and indigenous communities. We concur with the WG that there remains a strong need for prior and informed consent of the affected communities on the part of the State and the corporations before undertaking any project.

We would like to complement the observations of the WG by adding the following: we want to highlight the relevance of the recommendation of the WG that State owned companies or those under the State’s control, in carrying out their activities, should include human rights criteria. A prime example of this is the case of the excessive price of electricity by the Comisión Federal de Electricidad with little consideration of human rights criteria. We also believe that there is an urgency for the State to complete and implement the National plan of action on companies and human rights and to ensure that the process is transparent and that the consultations include the agricultural workers as well as the rural and urban communities.

Finally, we notice two significant omissions in the report. There is no explicit mention of the actors involved in producing genetically modified soya crops. We also observe that there is no mention of many areas, such as along the northern and the southern borders of Mexico, where the activities of corporations impact negatively on the environment and on vulnerable communities. Could the WG explain if there is any reason for these omissions?

Thank you Mr. President.

**Oral Statement submitted by**

**Dominicans for Justice and Peace : Order of Preachers**

**Centro de Derechos Humanos “Fray Francisco de Vitoria OP”, A.C.**

