

ANNUAL 20  
REPORT 22



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# The Sustainable Development Goals



In 2015, all United Nations member states adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, linking economic development, human rights, environmental protection and climate action. Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** were set, with targets and indicators to evaluate their implementation.

***Dominicans for Justice and Peace*** [henceforth the Delegation or UNOP] ***contributes to the advancement of different SDGs in our countries of focus.*** Throughout this report, you will find references to the specific goals we have been working with. If you wish to learn more about the 2030 Agenda and its goals, please access the **[UN SDGs official website](#)**.

Dear FRIENDS,

We gladly present to you the report of Dominicans for Justice and Peace which represents the work of our brothers and sisters who are present at the United Nations in Geneva, Nairobi, and Vienna.



Perhaps, some of you still wonder about our presence at the secular world of the United Nations. Why maintain an advocacy at the UN when it seems powerless to stop armed conflicts in the world? In one of my canonical visitations a friar asked me: "Why advocate for human rights in the UN when it does not recognise the most vulnerable ones, the unborn children?"

In the social encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict sheds light on the Church's role vis-à-vis the State: "The just ordering of society and the State is a central responsibility of politics. The Church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the State. *Yet, at the same time, she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. A just society must be the achievement of politics, not of the Church. Yet the promotion of justice through efforts to bring about openness of mind and will to the demands of the common good is something which concerns the Church deeply.*" (*Deus caritas est*, 28, emphasis mine). The Dominicans are actively present at the UN for the same reason.

We cannot convert the UN into a Christian institution, however, we can let the light of the Gospel shine on its goal of promoting humanity's flourishing. Since its establishment in 1996, Dominicans for Justice and Peace has collaborated with the Dominican Family, Franciscans International, Edmund Rice International, VIVAT International, Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà ONLUS, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd and other networks and coalitions in calling on some governments to protect its people from laws, policies, and conditions that demean and devalue their dignity as human persons, as God's images in our world. In the following pages, you will see the faces of these persons and programmes and activities that help restore that beautiful image that is disfigured by various forms of injustice.

**The gift of true peace and authentic justice can only come from God.** But each one of us must do our part to prepare ourselves and the world to receive such graces. A concrete way to do so is to lend a helping hand to our brothers and sisters working at Dominicans for Justice and Peace.

Handwritten signature of Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner III OP in black ink.

**Fr. Gerard Francisco Timoner III OP**  
President

# Reflections from the Director



## Fr. Aniedi Okure OP

Director and Permanent Delegate to the United Nations |  
General Promoter of Justice and Peace of the Order of Preachers

The year 2022 was a year of encounters and learnings from our partners on the ground in different contexts, a privilege for which I am most grateful. Among other things, I saw the direct link between environmental injustice and human rights abuses.

Pope Francis aptly states that “... the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet (LS 48).” The challenge therefore is for us to strengthen our resolve to stand in solidarity to protect the vulnerable populations and our common home.

In the Philippines, we listened to stories of mothers describing with anguish how state security agents dragged their sons out of their homes in the middle of the night and executed them without trial. But all is not grim. One fishing community celebrated their victory over a company engaged in “Black Sand” mining that affected not only the marine ecosystem but their source of livelihood. They stopped the “mining”, and the company was fined for illegal activities.

In both contexts, it was heartwarming to hear the victims specifically express gratitude to the Dominicans on the ground for standing by them and supporting them in their struggles. This underscores the value of our physical presence with those who suffer.

**“We make resounding statements by simply accompanying  
the oppressed in their struggle for justice.”**

In Solomon Islands, we witnessed the impact of the deforestation of centuries-old trees by loggers, and the desertification of land by mining corporations exploring minerals, and ways these directly affect basic human rights such as drinking water and access to food sources for local communities. Sadly, these activities have negatively affected the integrity of families as their young daughters are subjected to sexual exploitation by loggers and miners, in addition to the rise in domestic violence. We heard cries for help at the town hall meetings. At one of the meetings, a woman remarked:

**"Many groups have come here in the past to visit us.  
They take our photos and raise our hopes, but they do not come back."**

This statement keeps ringing in my ears as we look for resources to support our partners on the ground so they can "go back" and collaborate with the communities in their struggles for justice.

I would like to mention what happened during an advocacy visit to the Governor of Kinshasa in collaboration with Africa Faith and Justice Network, to raise awareness on environmental pollution by plastic. A senior official, amazed by the large contingent of advocates that included about 50 religious women and men, asked: « *Qu'est-ce qui a provoqué l'Église ?* » That is, "**What has provoked the Church**" to come out in such large numbers to the Governor's office?

These experiences highlight some basic and effective principles in advocacy: listening and accompanying people in their struggles to obtain justice, the necessity for a sustained collaboration with the affected communities, and the effectiveness of building a coalition in tackling issues. There is strength in numbers and unity of purpose.



# Preserving our Common Home:

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS

The thematic priority of the organisation focuses on an integrated promotion of environmental justice and the advocacy on business and human rights.

In the encyclical *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis makes an appeal saying that: “The urgent challenge to protect our common home includes a concern to bring the whole human family together to seek a sustainable and integral development...” (LS 13). In 2022, with the resumption of international travel, Dominicans for Justice and Peace reinforced its support to the work of advocating for the rights of communities in the face of corporate greed in such countries of focus as Solomon Islands and the Philippines.

Solomon Islands has proven to be a clear showcase of the effects of wanton environmental destruction – with poor communities suffering the impacts of the unrestrained dash to exploit its centuries-old forests, its mineral reserves, its marine resources and its land. The visit and training, facilitated by an important delegation from Dominicans for Justice and Peace and Franciscans International, and with the valuable support of Dominican sisters and friars from Australia, highlighted the strong sense of solidarity experienced by the people of Solomon Islands, including members of the Dominican Family there. As a sign of their determination, the sisters and friars have taken the initiative to share the training and have themselves decided to train their community partners in human rights and environmental protection. Dominicans for Justice and Peace has resolved to provide a solid accompaniment to this process and hopes to mobilise further resources to attain its objectives.



Dominican sisters in a dialogue with women in Solomon Islands  
© UNOP



Delegates from Dominicans for Justice and Peace and members of the Dominican Family in a field visit in Solomon Islands  
© UNOP



Sister next to logged trees © Franciscans International

The case of the Philippines serves as another compelling example, demonstrating the positive outcomes achieved when the determination of local communities to safeguard their livelihoods and environment is combined with the steadfast support provided by Dominicans for Justice and Peace. In the face of relentless exploitation of black sand by mining industries, these collective efforts prevented the complete destruction of precious marine and river resources.



Discussing with Zambales Ecological Network's founder who spearheaded the protection of their seaside source of livelihood © Fr. Victor Calvo OP

Pope Francis clearly identifies that vulnerable populations suffer most from the effects of environmental degradation: “The human environment and the natural environment deteriorate together; we cannot adequately combat environmental degradation unless we attend to causes related to human and social degradation. In fact, the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the planet (LS 48).”

The field visits in 2022 by Dominicans for Justice and Peace have made it a witness to the nefarious effects of unbridled exploitation and abuse of the environment. The challenge therefore is for the Dominican Family and all partners to strengthen its justice and peace actions in solidarity with all impacted populations and with a particular eye on the effects for future generations. Pope Francis speaks of “intergenerational solidarity”: “Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others.” (LS 159) In pursuit of this injunction, Dominicans all over the world can play a significant role in helping preserve our common home and help create a world where the generations to come can still live in a dignified way.



Aerial view of San Narciso residents protesting against the exploitation of the Alusiis river which is a breeding ground of milk fish fries, an important source of livelihood © Zambales Ecological Network



© UNOP

# Our Achievements

## Outcomes

## Indicators

4

### Reports submitted to the United Nations

- Countries: Philippines, Democratic Republic of Congo and Guatemala
- To learn more, visit our [Advocacy materials webpage](#) and read the section "Our Engagement on the Ground" of this report

56

### Recommendations included in United Nations reports

- Countries: Philippines, Guatemala, Democratic Republic of Congo
- To learn more, read the section "Our Engagement on the Ground" of this report

14

### Statements delivered at the Human Rights Council

- Countries: Philippines, Guatemala, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Myanmar and Ukraine
- Topics: human rights, climate change, environmental protection, Covid-19, education, human rights defenders, peace & more
- To learn more, visit our [Statements](#) webpage

22

### Training, events and webinars

- Countries: Guatemala, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Democratic Republic of Congo and Nigeria
- Topics: human rights, environmental protection and climate change

193

### Partners trained

- Countries: Philippines, Solomon Islands, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala and Nigeria

# Milestones in 2022

## 1. Solomon Islands



In-person training in Solomon Islands jointly with Franciscans International, strengthening partners' capacities and the collaboration between all stakeholders on the ground and in Geneva.

© UNOP

## 2. Dominican Republic



Preparation of a briefing paper, together with lawyers and journalists, on the working conditions of Haitian workers in the sugar sector in the Dominican Republic destined to the U.S. Congress. Later in the year, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection released an order to detain imports of raw sugar and sugar-based products produced by Central Romana Corp. in the Dominican Republic due to evidence of forced labour.

© UNOP

## 3. Philippines



Exerted pressure from civil society, including Dominicans, leading to the imposition of a fine on a black sand mining company;

Launch of a pilot project with 25 teachers from Dominican schools in the Philippines on human rights and climate change;

In-person visit and training of three partners from the Philippines in Geneva.

© UNOP

## 4. Mexico



Support to partners in Mexico with their urgent appeal on the case of Kenia Inés Hernández Montalván, an indigenous leader who was illegally incarcerated after peaceful protests. The case was acknowledged by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples. They sent a communication to the Mexican Government requiring clarifications about its actions to address the case.

© CDHVitoria



Online trainings and activities to strengthen capacities of Dominican partners in Guatemala on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).

© Dominican Family in Guatemala



Organisation of a formal meeting with the first UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights, together with the Geneva Interfaith Forum (GIF).



Following years of efforts by civil society, the UN General Assembly recognised in July 2022 that a healthy, clean and sustainable environment is a human right, boosting the decision-making process and actions taken by States to protect the environment.



# Our Engagement on the Ground



## SOLOMON ISLANDS

A strong partnership has emerged between Dominicans for Justice and Peace and the Dominican Family in Solomon Islands together with Franciscans International and other local partners to work together on environmental and human rights violations.

### Our focus

**The negative impacts of logging, mining and other extractive activities** - The Delegation was actively engaged in the promotion of human rights in the face of detrimental effects caused by commercial logging, mining and other extractive industries. These activities have had adverse consequences on local communities, including their **livelihoods, health, nutrition and education**, leading to the emergence of various social ills, particularly with respect to the **rights of girls and women**.

### Our advocacy

**Oral statement at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) Expert Discussions on Crimes that Affect the Environment, at the United Nations Organised Crime and Drug Office in Vienna** - The statement highlighted the pressing concerns arising from logging activities in Solomon Islands.

**Meeting in Geneva with the Australian Ambassador to the Holy See** - The Ambassador was informed about the engagement of Dominicans for Justice and Peace in Solomon Islands and the importance of addressing logging and its consequences.



Logged trees in Solomon Islands © Franciscans International



Dominicans for Justice and Peace and partners facilitate the training in Honiara © Franciscans International

**Meetings with UN agencies, NGOs and New Zealand High Commissioner's Office on the ground** - The Dominicans met with different stakeholders to introduce their work, raise awareness on current issues and foster synergies and collaborations.

### **Strengthening the capacities of our partners**

**Online training sessions** - Several sessions and meetings were organised throughout 2022 to build upon the 2021 online training on human rights advocacy related to the UPR of Solomon Islands. This also laid groundwork for the in-person workshop in October.



Participants at the training © UNOP

**In-person workshop in Honiara, October 2022** - The Delegation and Franciscans International delivered a training session to consolidate the learnings of the **35 local partners** in human rights. Additionally, a field data-collection exercise enabled the participants to be trained in rigorous data-gathering methods and get first-hand information on the actual situation of the communities.



The Dominican Family and the Delegation representatives in a village north of Honiara for the field visit © UNOP

# PHILIPPINES

The Delegation continued to accompany local partners in the Philippines in monitoring and raising awareness about climate change, business and human rights and the war on drugs and its impacts on populations in precarious conditions.

## Our focus

**The “War on Drugs” and authoritarianism** - The 2022 Presidential elections raised serious concerns about the persistence of violent State practices, such as **extrajudicial killings, torture, political persecution and red-tagging**, allegedly based on national security and the fight against drug trafficking. The lack of strong accountability mechanisms for the violations perpetrated by State and non-State actors continues to result in a general culture of impunity. Dominicans for Justice and Peace and its local partners are persistently engaged in advocacy efforts, amplifying their voices at both the United Nations and national levels to advocate for the cessation of violence.



Flood Typhoon Agaton Iloilo © Eucharistic King Academy, Sara, Iloilo

**Climate change & business and human rights** - The Philippines is among the countries particularly vulnerable to climate change.

The destruction of houses, buildings and livelihoods are a few examples of the extensive damages caused by **typhoons, strong winds and heavy rainstorms**, thereby significantly impacting the enjoyment of basic human rights. Additionally, the negative environmental impact of **mining exploitation in Zambales** and the disregard of core environmental and human rights obligations persisted.

The Delegation and its partners continued to assist the affected communities by raising awareness on the urgency of climate change and the protection of human rights.



**Executive summary** of civil society's UPR submission on the issues of extrajudicial killings, human rights defenders and the impacts of mining activities on human rights.

Contact details:  
Franciscans International: [b.tahjono@fiop.org](mailto:b.tahjono@fiop.org)  
Dominicans for Justice and Peace: [contact@un.op.org](mailto:contact@un.op.org)



Cover of the joint advocacy paper

## Our advocacy

**UN Universal Periodic Review of the Philippines** - Submission of a joint report on environmental protection and human rights, extrajudicial killings and the protection of human rights defenders.

**UN Human Rights Committee (CCPR) review of the Philippines** - Presentation of a **joint report with more than 10 partner organisations**, delivery of an oral statement and participation in official meetings.



Our partner delivering a statement at the UN Human Rights Council (Un Web TV)

**UN Human Rights Council** - Delivery of an oral statement during an interactive dialogue dedicated to the political situation in the Philippines at the 51st session.

**Coordination with partner NGOs and other stakeholders** - Thanks to the pressure exerted by the Dominicans and partners against black sand mining activities, local authorities in Zambales have taken decisive action by imposing hefty fines on the mining company and suspending all mining operations until a comprehensive environmental impact assessment is completed.

## Strengthening the capacities of our partners

**In-person training on human rights advocacy in Geneva for three members of the Dominican Family in the Philippines** - The training provided them with the valuable opportunity to follow the procedures of the UN Human Rights Council and acquire hands-on experience in advocacy at the UN in Geneva.

**Pilot project on climate change and human rights with teachers from Dominican schools in the Philippines** - **25 teachers** were part of the project, which aimed at mainstreaming lessons on the negative impacts of climate change on human rights in academic curriculum in Dominican schools.

**Five online sessions** took place in 2022 with the participation of experts from different backgrounds, including lawyers, civil society representatives and religious leaders.

Partners from the Philippines and our Delegation at the Palais des Nations in Geneva © UNOP



# DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Dominicans for Justice and Peace successfully expanded its actions to promote human rights in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by fostering a strong and enduring collaboration with local partners, particularly those actively engaged in addressing concerns about environmental and mining issues.

## Our focus

Environmental issues and the mining sector constitute strong concerns in the DRC. Despite the enactment of the **2018 Mining Code**, extractive activities continued undermining the realisation of human rights. The Delegation joined forces to address these issues. The collaborative efforts focused on raising awareness about the adverse impacts inflicted upon local communities, while also tackling broader environmental issues such as the pressing problem of **plastic pollution**.

## Our advocacy

**Review by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)** - The Delegation submitted a joint report highlighting the gaps in the implementation of the new mining legislation, calling for just working conditions, and providing recommendations for the State. During the review session, Dominicans for Justice and Peace also delivered an oral statement and met with Committee members. **Nine of its key recommendations have been included in the Committee's Concluding Observations.**



Fr. Aniedi led the Dominican Family to dialogue with the Minister on the Environment in Kinshasa



Members of the Dominican Family in Kinshasa

## Strengthening the capacities of our partners

In collaboration with Africa Faith and Justice Network and the Conference of Major Superiors in the DRC (COSUMA), the Delegation conducted a **four-day workshop on environmental pollution**, with a focus on plastic pollution. The workshop included advocacy visits to three government departments: the ministries of environment and health and the Office of the Governor of Kinshasa. Since the training and advocacy visits, the Government has put in place several measures to address plastic pollution. Participants have taken initiatives to address the issue in their respective localities.

### CESCR DRC

9 recommendations from UNOP were shared with the Government  
Report submitted

# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Together with the Dominican Family on the ground, victims and defenders from affected communities, lawyers, journalists and other stakeholders, the Delegation significantly enhanced its efforts in advocating for human rights within the sugarcane industry.

## Our focus

Over the past years, Dominicans for Justice and Peace has persistently exposed and condemned **forced evictions** from Central Romana Corp. and the **lack of accountability**. In light of the company's tarnished reputation following the Pandora Papers scandal, our collaboration with journalists and lawyers, both in the United States and in the Dominican Republic, have been considerably strengthened. We have also pursued our advocacy on the promotion of the rights of Haitian workers in sugarcane fields.

## Our advocacy

**Establishment of an ad-hoc informal working group with lawyers and journalists in the United States and the Dominican Republic** - After successfully blocking ProTerra's certification of Central Romana Corp. for good practices in sugar production, we continued our advocacy to prevent other certifications from being improperly granted to the company. Furthermore, the collective efforts of the working group resulted in the completion of a briefing paper, aimed at raising awareness among U.S. Congress representatives about the deplorable working conditions endured by Haitian labourers within the Dominican Republic's sugar sector.

**U.S. Customs and Border Protection's decision to halt all imports of sugarcane products from Central Romana Corp.** - As a result of joint advocacy efforts, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection identified 5 out of 11 indicators of forced labour, including child labour, in the activities of Central Romana Corp.. In a historic decision, the Agency issued a Withhold Release Order (WRO) to stop the imports of raw sugar and sugar products produced by Central Romana Corp..

*"Manufacturers like Central Romana, who fail to abide by our laws, will face consequences as we root out these inhumane practices from U.S. supply chains."*



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

AnnMarie R. Highsmith, Executive Assistant Commissioner,  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of Trade

[Link](#)

*"It has been a kilometric battle to raise awareness on the mistreatment and the way this abusive company, Central Romana, has acted.*

*We hope that advocacy will continue in the future and that the company can pay for the damage done, not only in El Seibo, but also in many other places. There are breezes that knock down coconuts."*

Ms. Claribel Álvarez, human rights defender and victim of forced eviction by Central Romana in 2016 in the Province of El Seibo, Dominican Republic

# GUATEMALA

Dominicans for Justice and Peace has persistently shed light on the abuses of large-scale exploitation of natural resources and rising authoritarian practices from the Government of Guatemala, ensuring that these issues were brought to the attention of the UN.

## Our focus

In 2022, the gravity of the human rights situation and the erosion of the rule of law in Guatemala were of utmost concern. Key areas of concern included the compromised independence of the judiciary, the surveillance and persecution of civil society actors, as well as the negative impacts of business activities on the environment and rights of local communities and Indigenous Peoples.

## Our advocacy

**UN Human Rights Council** - During the June and September sessions, the Delegation delivered and co-sponsored several oral statements to urge the State to guarantee the enjoyment of the **right to water**, to ensure **free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples** and to **protect human rights defenders against criminalisation**.

**CESCR Guatemala**  
**12 recommendations from the Delegation**  
**were used by the Committee in its**  
**Concluding Observations**  
**Report submitted**

**Review by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)** - Dominicans for Justice and Peace submitted a joint report to the CESCR and co-sponsored a statement to raise awareness on key issues, including the right to safe and drinkable water, the right to adequate housing and the right to food.

## Strengthening the capacities of our partners

The Delegation organised a series of online discussions with the Dominican Family in Central America. The primary objective was twofold: to provide insights into the Delegation's mission and to gain a deeper understanding of the pressing human rights concerns faced by the Dominicans in the region. Recognising the significance of capacity building, the Delegation also conducted several online training sessions focused on equipping participants with the necessary skills to engage effectively with the Universal Periodic Review and the CESCR. Additionally, specialised training was provided on data collection methodologies.



Our partner delivering an oral statement at the Human Rights Council

# MEXICO

In an enduring partnership with the Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Francisco de Vitoria (CDHVitoria), we remained committed to the steadfast monitoring of the human rights situation in Mexico.

## Our priorities

**Human rights defenders and arbitrary detention** - Defenders fighting for human rights often face persecution and unlawful arrests, while the State routinely ignores the freedoms of expression and assembly. Such was the case of Ms. Kenia Inés Hernández Montalván, **young indigenous lawyer** and activist, who champions the causes of human rights and gender violence. She was arbitrarily detained following a peaceful protest for the liberation of political prisoners.

**Young people and Covid-19** - The situation of young people in view of the measures taken by the Mexican Government in response to the Covid-19 pandemic became a strong concern, since the enjoyment of **the right to education, labour rights, and others**, have been severely impaired and remained unaddressed by the State.

## Our advocacy

**UN Special Procedures** - With the support of our Delegation, the CDHVitoria submitted information to the Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders and on Indigenous Peoples, as well as to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. The urgent appeal shed light on the misuse of criminal law, arbitrary detention, poor detention conditions and procedural violations against Ms. Kenia Montalván. Alarmed with the information received, the UN experts initiated a joint communication to the Mexican State requesting clarifications on her detention and accusation.

**UN Human Rights Council** - In June 2022, the Delegation presented an oral statement calling States to implement comprehensive actions and take into account the voices of young people to counteract the consequences of Covid-19.



50ª Sesión del Consejo de Derechos Humanos

ITEM 2 - Diálogo Interactivo con la Alta Comisionada sobre su actualización oral sobre el papel central del Estado en la respuesta a pandemias y otras emergencias sanitarias, y las consecuencias socioeconómicas de las mismas en el avance del desarrollo sostenible y la realización de todos los derechos humanos (HRC res. 44/2)

Junio 2022



Our partner delivering an oral statement at the Human Rights Council

# TOGETHER

## AMIDST THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY & PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

In 2022, the world faced a multitude of challenging events. The aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated social inequalities, while concerns over global warming reached alarming heights. Vulnerable groups faced increased exploitation, and conflicts and wars continued to erode stability. In the midst of these daunting challenges, our Delegation remained steadfast in our mission for justice and peace, both on the ground and on the international stage. With our representations strategically located in Vienna and Nairobi, and in close collaboration with various organisations and working groups, we took proactive steps to reinforce our demands and drive for meaningful action, especially in our priority thematic areas.

### Nairobi Representation to the UNEP

The Nairobi Delegation actively participated in the sessions of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), including the UNEA 5.2 and formed an informal working group with faith-based NGOs to coordinate actions. The team also held a briefing with fr. Aristide Abasse OP, who holds a PhD specialising in sustainable forest management in Africa, and explored together advocacy opportunities related to forestry issues.

### Vienna Representation to the UNODC

In 2022, the Vienna Delegation remained involved in the sessions of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). The team was engaged in organisational meetings to improve civil society engagement and participated in thematic debates, including the World Day against Trafficking in Persons and the Kyoto Declaration on Crime Prevention. The Delegation, represented by Mr. Tobias Krachler, also played a key role in the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

In February, an oral statement was delivered to highlight the violations committed in the context of logging activities in Solomon Islands during the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) Expert Discussions on Crimes that Affect the Environment. Further, in October, the Delegation participated in the 11th session of the Conference of Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.



Above: The team in Nairobi

Below Mr. Tobias Krachler speaking at the CCPCJ



## Our participation in working groups

Throughout the year 2022, numerous initiatives were carried out in collaboration with partner organisations. Meetings were regularly held, particularly to exchange experiences, discuss upcoming events, and coordinate the submission of joint reports and statements.

In June, our Delegation co-organised with the Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change, Environment, and Human Rights (GIF) a side event during the 50th session of the UN Human Rights Council. With the theme "**Climate-Induced Displacement: Lifting Voices of Hope for the Protection of Human Rights and Climate Justice**", this joint initiative brought together faith-based organisations, UN experts, diplomatic and civil society representatives, as well as religious leaders, to address the pressing issue of forced displacement caused by climate change.



Members of the Delegation at the GIF side event © UNOP



Meeting the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change © UNOP



Mr. Ian Fry, first UN Special Rapporteur on human rights and climate change © UN Geneva

Ahead of the 27th UN Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, our Delegation, in collaboration with the Interfaith Liaison Committee (ILC), co-organised the **Informal Interfaith Gathering in the Spirit of Talanoa Dialogue**. This significant event brought together a diverse group of 89 participants, including faith leaders, both in person and online.

The gathering provided a platform for a holistic and fruitful exchange of reflections on climate change and a space to look at solutions from different perspectives, highlighting the great importance of solidarity in climate action.

**To our working group partners**, we express our deepest gratitude for the collaboration and solidarity in 2022 and beyond:



1. Geneva Interfaith Forum on Climate Change (GIF)
2. Geneva Climate Change Consultation Group (GeCCco)
3. ONG-LAC - NGOs working with Latin America and the Caribbeans
4. UPR Platform of the International Catholic Centre of Geneva (ICCG)
5. Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna

# COLLABORATION

## FRANCISCANS INTERNATIONAL & DOMINICANS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE



Stained glass window image of meeting between St. Francis and St. Dominic St. Dominic's Church, Washington, D.C, U.S.  
© Fr. Lawrence Iew OP

In May 1997, John Quigley OFM, then director of Franciscans International welcomed fr. Philippe LeBlanc OP, the first director of Dominicans for Justice and Peace, to share office space in Geneva, marking the start of a fruitful and fraternal collaboration between the two organisations.

Twenty-five years later, in October 2022, fr. Aniedi Okure OP, and Markus Heinze OFM, the current directors of the two organisations, led the silver jubilee anniversary celebration of this collaboration in a fraternal event held at the St. Paul Dominican Parish in Geneva.

Pictures below: Members of the Delegation, panelists, friars and guests at the 25th anniversary of the OP-FI collaboration



Friends and colleagues who have witnessed the longstanding collaboration between the two organisations, including Ms. Alessandra Aula, Mr. Yao Agbetse and Mr. Adrien-Claude Zoller, provided heartfelt testimonies about the fruitful partnership. Mr. Budi Tjahjono, Asia-Pacific Programme Coordinator at Franciscans International, and Ms. Isis Alves, Interim Programme Coordinator at Dominicans for Justice and Peace, highlighted the ongoing joint initiatives carried out by both organisations at the local level.

The event commenced with a warm welcome from fr. Michel Fontaine OP, prior of the Dominican community and pastor of the parish, representing the friars. Their presence set a friendly and inviting tone for the gathering.

To mark the occasion, a moving eucharistic celebration was presided over by Archbishop Fortunatus Nwachukwu, Permanent Representative of the Holy See at the UN. Fr. Guy Musy OP delivered an inspiring homily during the ceremony.

# Our Human Rights Defenders

*"What inspires me to promote the rights of communities affected by environmental exploitation is the concern for their livelihood. People use water for drinking, washing, cooking and bathing. They use the land and the forest for gardening, especially root crops. Now, these are being destroyed. This is why people's rights must be strong to push hard on those who are responsible for exploiting the environment. Those are the things that inspire me to be the voice of the voiceless."*

**SR. SANIELLA SAPU**  
**ON HER INSPIRATION TO WORK FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**  
 Dominican Sisters of Prouilhe (Solomon Islands)



*"The training that the Dominican Family of the DRC received in August 2022 in Kinshasa, in partnership with AFJN on pollution and the importance of work for human rights and the environment, was full of hope. All participants committed themselves to work in the collection, management and transformation of plastic waste, which pollutes our living environments, in order to contribute to the revival of our planet Earth. (...) The results are encouraging: it is becoming clear that there is a need for a more sustainable approach to the management of plastic waste."*

**THIERRY N'ZENG**  
**ON THE IMPORTANCE OF LOCAL AWARENESS-RAISING AND CAPACITY BUILDING**  
 Dominican Fraternities (Democratic Republic of Congo)



*"The international advocacy can help us to strengthen networks and to make visible problems in different geographies like in Mexico. It is truly important to promote the youth perspective to defend human rights and to propose new actions and strategies to continue accompanying victims of human rights violations."*

**CASSANDRA MELENDEZ**  
**ON THE RELEVANCE OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCACY**  
 Centro de Derechos Humanos Fray Francisco de Vitoria (Mexico)



*"The experience in Geneva provided inspiration and light. The international community can help states, including the Philippines, to fulfill their commitment to human rights. This exposure will help to stimulate and strengthen the relationship of the Dominican Family with the work of human rights and Justice and Peace and Care for Creation. The communities, institutions, schools, parishes, and others that Dominicans can reach out to pursue human rights work can be maximised."*

**FROILAN ALIPAO**  
**ON THE SPILL-OVER FROM INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY TO LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS EFFORTS**  
 University of Santo Tomas and Dominican Family (Philippines)



# Academic Engagement Programme



© University of Fribourg

In 2022, the UNOP Academic Engagement Programme successfully concluded its comprehensive study on the **10 themes surrounding the tensions between human rights** with the drafting of the last two texts: one addressing the critical issues of **migrant and refugee reception and the regulation of migration flows**, and the other focusing on the delicate balance between **individual rights and community rights**.

These texts were published in 2022 in French by the Presses Universitaires of the Catholic Institute of Toulouse. Below, see an extract of the book, written by our Academic Engagement Programme Coordinator, fr. Luc-Thomas Somme OP:

“It is the States that are the addressees of the international community's observations; this means that, as far as human rights violations are concerned, we rely on the very States that violate them: this observation, which could be despairing, underlines above all the need for the presence of NGOs to maintain a salutary concern among the powerful.”

The Coordinator also gave a lecture at the Catholic University of Madagascar in July 2022 on the theme "**Pope Francis, promoter of the right to water**". Additionally, he gave a weekly biannual lecture on human rights at the Philosophy Department of the same university, as well as at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland).

The Academic Engagement Programme has begun to focus its work on the themes of migration, abortion and climate change to delve deeper into these areas and initiate meaningful discussions and research. Moreover, the Programme is actively seeking new collaborations to foster teamwork and expand its impact. One particular objective is to develop partnerships that can contribute to the comprehensive formation of young Dominican friars, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively promote human rights.

# NETWORKING WITH VARIOUS ENTITIES OF THE DOMINICAN FAMILY

As the official delegation of the Order of Preachers to the UN, Dominicans for Justice and Peace informs and trains various entities of the Dominican Family in order to keep them abreast of developments in justice and peace as well as in human rights work. In 2022, various initiatives were undertaken to reach out to entities of the Dominican Family wherever the opportunities to meet them were possible.



## With the Dominican friars in SWITZERLAND

In the course of the visit of the Filipino delegates to the 51st Human Rights Council's session and the 52nd Geneva for Human Rights' course, Dominicans for Justice and Peace team visited St. Dominic's community in Geneva. The Delegation was likewise invited to take part in the parish day in June 2022, and share activities with the parishioners and the friars. Similarly, the delegates visited St. Nicolas de Myre's community of friars in Zurich. The occasion provided an opportunity for the delegates to share Dominican engagements in justice and peace.

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## With the Dominican Family in SOLOMON ISLANDS

Zoom Meeting

In the course of the visit to Solomon Islands in October, fr. Aniedi took the opportunity to meet with the Prouille Dominican sisters and with the Dominican friars to discuss and facilitate the process for the formal creation of the Dominican Family for Justice and Peace in the country. This process started earlier in the year with several online meetings to flesh out the possibilities of creating the network.



## With the Dominican Family in the PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, fr. Aniedi met with Dominican sisters, members of the lay fraternities, youth, the friars and the University of Santo Tomas' academic community in a series of discussions. The various fora provided a venue for interesting exchanges on the central place of justice and peace in the life and ministry of the Dominican Order and enlightened some questions and doubts on the issue.



From the left: Members of the Dominican Family in the Philippines; Fr. Aniedi talks about justice and peace and explains the place of justice and peace in Dominican ministry to a captive audience of brothers in formation, University of Santo Tomas, Manila © Dominican Family in the Philippines

## With the Dominican Family in NIGERIA

Fr. Aniedi conducted a seminar on Dominican Tradition and Justice Ministry to the Dominican Family to animate them on justice and peace issues and the relationship between religion and the state. Also, in collaboration with Africa Faith and Justice Network, a four-day workshop, including advocacy visits to traditional rulers, was conducted with a focus on domestic servitude and the rights of the girls.



From the left: Members of the Dominican Family in Nigeria; Audience interaction during the 4-days workshop on domestic violence; Members of the Dominican Family after the talk on justice and peace

## With the Dominican Family in TAIWAN

A number of online meetings were held with the lay Dominicans, sisters and friars in Taiwan, that allowed the Delegation to present its work in human rights promotion and also to instil once again in the participants the importance of the integral role of engagement in justice and peace in Dominican preaching.

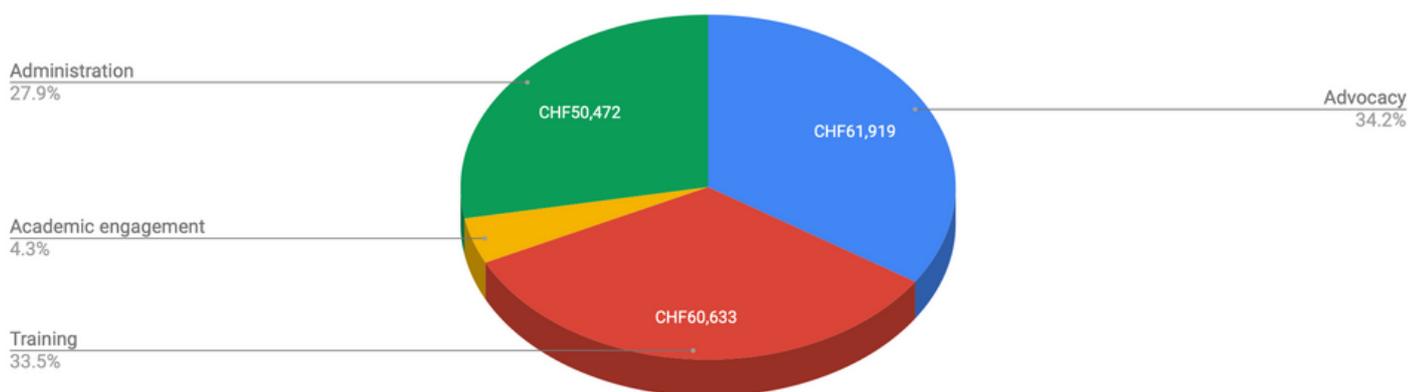


# Financial Report 2022

2022

	2021	2022
<b>INCOME</b>		
Fundings	160,665.00	149,977.50
Donations	8,591.33	14,593.49
<b>Total INCOME</b>	<b>169,256.33</b>	<b>164,570.99</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
<b>PROGRAMMES</b>		
Advocacy	63,159.68	61,919.48
Training	59,070.98	60,633.23
Academic engagement	8,550.50	7,786.77
<b>Total PROGRAMMES</b>	<b>130,781.17</b>	<b>130,339.47</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>	<b>46,279.63</b>	<b>50,472.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>177,060.80</b>	<b>180,811.47</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-7,674.23</b>	<b>-16,240.48</b>

Expenses 2022



JANUARY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2022

# Board and Secretariat

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**Br. Steve Sese Okoth**  
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# IN GRATITUDE



We thank you all for your continued support to our mission!

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## Thank you, volunteers!

The Delegation has benefited from the tremendous help of all its volunteers in its various offices and countries. A heartfelt thanks to your dedication, commitment and for your generosity in sharing your time and talents.

## Thank you, members of the Board!

We express our warm gratitude to all members of the Board for your untiring support, guidance and inspiration to help the Delegation move forward and fulfil its mission with hope and trust.

## Thank you, donors!

Dominicans for Justice and Peace is immensely grateful to donors and partners for their generous contributions in 2022. Thank you for your unwavering support!

- The Dominican Curia (OP) in Rome
- The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy
- The Dominican Province of the Assumption (Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands)
- Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and Solomon Islands
- Dominican International School Taipei through Sr. Ma. Zenaida T. Ancheta OP (Principal/Directress)
- Prof. Belen L. Tangco
- Kathleen Holmlund
- An anonymous donor

**Donate and help us  
continue our mission**

**JOIN US  
TO PROMOTE  
JUSTICE AND PEACE &  
TO PROTECT  
OUR COMMON HOME**

*From Asia to the Pacific, Europe, Africa, and the Americas.*

**From climate change to the exploitation of natural  
resources, from Indigenous Peoples' rights to women's and  
children's rights, and beyond.**

**PLEASE VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#)  
TO JOIN & SUPPORT**



## Contact Us

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