

59th session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 3 –Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of
human rights in the context of climate change - The imperative of defossilizing our
economies

Presented by fr. Juan Anguerry, OP

Dominicans for Justice and Peace thanks the Special Rapporteur for her diligent and thorough report on the need to defossilize our economies. We commend the report for bringing light to the intergenerational impact that climate change has on human rights.

The human rights impacts of fossil fuel activities on today's youth and future generations present an urgent challenge in many parts of the world. In the Philippines, the increasing intensity of typhoons and heatwaves severely affect the rights to life, to health, to food, and to education of the youth. In the Amazon, Indigenous youth are growing up at a time when ancestral lands and traditions are rapidly disappearing due to deforestation, fossil fuel extraction, and climate change. These concrete impacts will worsen for future generations if the world continues to rely on fossil fuels.

We can only echo the Special Rapporteur's call for States to act on to phase out fossil fuels within this decade and wish to emphasize the importance of ensuring access to comprehensive national education on the effects of climate change on human rights. Educating and empowering the youth is a key step toward building generations capable of claiming their rights in the context of the climate crisis and of becoming active agents of change.

Thank you,