



## **Oral Statement at the 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Right Council**

### **Item 6: UPR Outcome of Kenya**

**Date: 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2020**

**Delivered by: Mr. Constantine D'Abreu**

**Madame President,**

With the introduction of free primary education in Kenya, enrollment rates have been above 90%, however, the use of corporal punishment remains high, and a policy and structural framework that could allow children with disabilities equal access to education remains a mirage.

Edmund Rice International and Dominicans for Justice and Peace urge the Kenyan government to expedite implementation of recommendations that enjoyed its support in the third cycle UPR which include the prohibition of corporal punishment in schools and public institutions (142.125, Cyprus) and a review of the Special Needs Education Policy (2009) to ensure that no child is left behind, and that children with disabilities are able to learn alongside other children to the extent possible. (142.254, Singapore;142.220 Thailand)

Mental health concerns for children in Kenya remain, yet there is lack of adequate facilities for addressing this issue of concern. We urge the Kenyan government to implement the recommendation (142.27) regarding the adoption of the draft bills on children, mental health and persons with disabilities, and consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Ecuador).

Finally we urge the Kenyan government to collaborate with relevant stakeholders, including faith based agencies, to implement recommendations on affordable housing for low-income people,(142.181)and on the development of the national public waterworks for water resources storage to better ensure the right to water and sanitation (142.182 Viet Nam).

Thank you.