



**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, FIFTY-FOURTH SESSION  
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW OF FRANCE**

**Geneva, Palais des Nations, Room XX, Friday afternoon, September 29  
Item 6 on the agenda of the UN Human Rights Council**

*Statement by Geneviève Colas, Secours Catholique - Caritas France, on behalf of Caritas Internationalis*

Dear Mr. President,

Caritas Internationalis<sup>1</sup> thanks the French government for its commitment to France's Universal Periodic Review. Of the 355 recommendations presented to France (during the interactive dialogue on May 1, 2023), France supports 77%. Caritas Internationalis regrets, however, that France considers certain other recommendations to be already implemented, whereas the current legislation does not guarantee their application.

We therefore call on France to :

- Make the struggle against poverty and the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights the core of every public policy, in consultation with the people concerned, while ensuring a just ecological transition.
- Pursue a migration policy based on the reception, protection, integration and promotion of migrants, while respecting the rights and dignity of individuals. France, which currently holds the presidency of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, has an opportunity to engage in ambitious discussions with stakeholder mechanisms, including civil society, and to be a force for commitment to the dignity of migrants. This could serve as the basis for developing a strategy to implement the Global Compact on Migration, in which France has failed to make any headway on. This Pact should deal with all aspects of international migration, including humanitarian aid, development and human rights, in order to move away from the trend towards securitizing and closing borders. These costly migration policies do not prevent those who have decided to leave their home countries from doing so, but encourage them to take increasingly costly and dangerous routes, and fall into the trap of trafficking. Moreover, while France has noted the recommendations concerning ratification of the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, it is urgent that this protection be effectively guaranteed by the establishment of safe and legal channels for migration. It is essential to include protective measures for foreign nationals, whatever their status, in existing laws.
- Take strong measures to reform the care of unaccompanied minors and respect the rights of all children on French territory, in metropolitan France and overseas.
- Make the prevention of and fight against human trafficking a policy in its own right, with the necessary resources. The national plan announced by France has been awaited for almost 2 years, the previous one covering the years 2019 to 2021 having already been evaluated by the CNCDH, national rapporteur on human trafficking. France's commitment in this area must be translated into action, and without delay, in terms of creating a national reference mechanism for the identification and support of victims, in terms of training professionals and volunteers in contact with these groups, and with substantial resources for the support of victims.

As a candidate for re-election to the UN Human Rights Council, France has a duty to set an example in the implementation of human rights in France, particularly in the areas mentioned above.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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<sup>1</sup> This speech was prepared in collaboration with Secours Catholique - Caritas France