



Franciscans International
A voice at the United Nations

58th Session of the Commission on Social Development

Priority theme: Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness

ORAL STATEMENT

Title: Protecting the Rights of Communities at Risk of Homelessness because of Mining (MIDR) and Development Induced Displacement (DIDR) through Social Protection

Thank you, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues, and friends,

I am making this statement on behalf of the NGO Mining Working Group, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas- Mercy International Association, Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic, and Franciscans International.

Today, we need a universally inclusive definition for homelessness to enhance policy development, data collection, and policy coherence.

We support the work of the Expert Group that developed an inclusive definition of homelessness, which, if adopted universally, affirms the right of all to adequate housing and ensures that no one is left behind, including people displaced by extractive industries.

The extractives sector frequently causes environmental degradation and a range of adverse human rights impacts that lead to pollution, loss of livelihood, displacement, the destruction of communities, and homelessness. Given the gravity of impact, States should ensure businesses respect human rights, including the right to housing. Only a paradigm shift at national and international levels will create the necessary framework and protections needed to hold the extractive sector accountable for their negative impact on human rights, especially the right to adequate housing.

States must ensure that companies engaged in extractive industries conduct human rights due diligence to identify, prevent, and mitigate potential and actual human rights impacts, including the right to adequate housing. Companies must provide remediation when they have adversely impacted human rights.

We urge Member States to design and implement policies that ensure the meaningful engagement of local communities including: free, prior, and informed consent of indigenous peoples, due diligence on human rights- including the right to housing- especially regarding the impact of extractive industries.

We call on the power of Member States to:

- Implement social protections, including floors, as a contribution to prevent homelessness and to mitigate negative impacts on human rights in cases of displacement, especially those caused by extractive industries.
- Mandate effective processes for remediation in cases where businesses have impacted human rights, including the right to adequate housing.

Thank you.

Signatories

NGO Mining Working Group

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas- Mercy International Association

Maryknoll Sisters of St. Dominic

Franciscans International