

SOCIAL FORUM - Geneva, Palais de Nations, 3-6 October 2011

“RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT”

ORAL STATEMENT

delivered on 3<sup>rd</sup> October by: ASSOCIAZIONE COMUNITA' PAPA GIOVANNI XXIII.

On behalf of the Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, I would like, first of all, to congratulate you, Chair, for your elections and thank most sincerely all the panelists of the day for their valuable contributions.

We live in a globalised and interconnected world that offers immense possibilities to a fortunate few and lives behind millions of people living at the margin of progress and far below the minimum demanded by human dignity.

Unless structural obstacles that generate poverty and impede development are removed, international cooperation will be more a form of palliative care rather than prevention and cure. Some of these obstacles are: prioritising profit at any cost and above all; financial speculations, asymmetries in the global market and unfair trade rules, excessive consumption of goods, external foreign debt of developing countries, a failing economic neoliberal model, exploitation of natural and human resources, conflicts and wars.

We firmly believe that progressing toward the realisation of a new, more just international order , requires to:

- providing the Right to Development with a legal binding framework and national/regional policies for its implementation.
- recognising the Right of individuals and Peoples to International Solidarity.
- better monitoring with adequate indicators the MDG8, on Global Partnership
- working effectively and continuously for peace and recognising the Right to Peace.

International Solidarity, Right to Development and MDG8 are extremely linked and keys to achieve the other Millennium Development Goals. They shift the paradigm of international cooperation and assistance from a vision of mere charity and moral obligation to solidarity rights and social justice.

We welcome the new resolution on a “more equitable and democratic order” approved at the 18<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Human Rights Council that establishes an Independent Expert on this issue.

We also look forward to the finalisation of the Draft Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty that will put human rights at the centre of the fight against poverty.

Being continuously at grass root level and sharing life with people living in extreme poverty, especially in Sub-Sahara Africa, Asia and Latin America, compel us to ask a reversed question when debate on sustainable development arises: are we, people living in wealthy and developed countries, sustainable for the poor of the world? The answer is no. People living in extreme poverty, whose human rights are violated on daily basis, don't the luxury to wait. They die.

Hence, it is time now, to put in place a development framework that highlights, calls for and embodies internationally recognised human rights.

All depends from our individual and collective choices and the political will of Member States. It does not depend from money as it has been repeatedly said today by some panelists.

Thank You