



Company of the Daughters of
Charity of St. Vincent de Paul



35th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 6-23 June 2017

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity

Joint oral statement

“The Right to International Solidarity”

Mr President,

APG23 and other 14 co-signing NGOs welcome the report¹ of the Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity. We thank most profoundly Ms Dandan for her excellent work and for having kept her promise to provide the draft declaration on the right to international solidarity.

The draft declaration is the result of an in-depth research and intensive consultations with all relevant stakeholders. We fully support the revised text of the declaration attached to the report.

The recognition of the right to international solidarity is significantly relevant at a time of rising nationalism and fragmentation around the world and a human rights-based vision of international solidarity could create an alternative narrative to that of the actual globalisation by countering its negative effects and promoting the global sustainable development for all and at all levels.

The right to International Solidarity represents a new instrument to face the complexity of global problems, to preserve the universality of the human rights and to improve the implementation of all the other human rights. It derives from the principle of human fraternity recognised with the foundation of the United Nations and its legal aspect is dictated and imposed both by our common origin and by the equality in rational nature of all men and women, whatever nation they belong to. Its recognition stems from the need to restore justice and equality.

We appreciate the fact that Ms Dandan has taken into account in the new draft declaration some criticism to the preliminary text expressed in the regional consultations and expert workshop, by better and clearly defining in article 5 and 6 the rights holders and duty bearers of the right as well as the non-States actors. We also appreciate the fact that the concept of “preventive solidarity”, that has the potential to address the core need for justice and equity at the national and international level, has been retained in the draft declaration and made clearer by introducing the concept of “reactive solidarity” echoing the resolution A/HRC/RES/15/13 that states: “ideally, solidarity should be preventive rather than simply reactive to massive irreversible damage already caused, and must address both natural and man-made disasters”.

Our NGOs wish to reiterate their support to the draft declaration² on the right to international solidarity. We are convinced that developing the principle of international solidarity into its legal dimension as a right is the only way to make the principle effective and operational, especially for the benefit of the most vulnerable”.

Thank You!

¹ Annex to A/HRC/35/35