



ASSOCIAZIONE COMUNITÀ PAPA GIOVANNI
XXIII

Madame President

The Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII welcomes the constructive participation of Zambia in the UPR process.

In regards to the right to education, APG23 recognises the commitment of Zambia's Government to providing equal educational opportunities to all children. But it is deeply concerned about the situation of disabled children. Even though the Government issued the Persons with Disabilities Act 2012, APG23 urges Zambia to take measures to ensure that every school is accessible to all disabled children, to provide special education programs and to increase the number of teachers trained in special education.

APG23 recommends the full eradication of corporal punishment and other degrading treatments as well as any act of violence against children at school.

In regard to the girl pupils, APG23 urges the full implementation of CEDAW, especially article 10.

Girls still suffer disadvantages and discrimination. We urge to implement awareness campaigns that encourage girls to attend to school and to ensure a re-entry policy for girls who have had a child.

Concerning the right to health, APG23 welcomes the efforts of the Government to increase financial resources, especially in the fight against HIV/AIDS. However, we urge the Government to take steps to guarantee the full realisation of the right to adequate food that is linked intrinsically to health and life; the lack of access to food and safe drinking water are major obstacles to HIV treatment. Moreover, APG23 encourages the Government to pay particular attention to the problem of acute and chronic malnutrition as an important issue in the treatment of HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

Although the Government continues to make much progress in the public health system, APG23 expresses its concern in regard to the lack of skills and tools necessary to prevent and treat malnutrition. Madam President, APG23 calls on Zambia to take measures to train adequately all health personnel in the country on the diagnosis and treatment of acute malnutrition.

Furthermore, we demand to make available RUTF (Ready to Use Therapeutic Food) to malnourished children and to ensure its administration by a competent authority.

We also call for:

the immediate realization of national, provincial and district task forces to assess the effects of treatment;

the government to formulate Agricultural policies that favour the production of local food and a nutrition education programmes targeting schools, adolescents, and especially pregnant women by using the best food resources.

Thank you, Madame President