



## 43rd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 24 February – 20 March 2020

### ITEM 3, GENERAL DEBATE

Oral statement delivered by: Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)

*Check against delivery*

Madame President,

APG23 welcomes the summary report of the intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Echoing one of the key messages outlined by the eminent speakers, we appreciate the reaffirmation of the unbreakable nature of the entire Agenda and its being grounded in human rights. Although, considering the Voluntary National Reviews presented so far at the High-Level Political Forum, we have recorded that a systematic reference to human rights is still missing.

APG23 would like to emphasize two critical issues for an effective implementation of the Agenda that were raised also during the intersessional meeting:

1. the need to adopt stronger accountability mechanisms through the integration of a human rights-based approach into the monitoring and follow-up of the Agenda, as well as by enhancing civil society participation;
2. the need to adopt the lens of the Right to Development with its transformative vision, as affirmed in the preamble of the 2030 Agenda, in implementing the SDGs. Applying a Right to Development approach would enable governments, as well as different actors and stakeholders, to really shift towards a right-holders perspective and to focus on the process by which the SDGs are achieved, not only on the single outcomes.

Relying on the knowledge gained by our work at grassroots level in many countries, we feel confident in affirming that even the best national sustainable development strategies and programs in such countries will not be fully successful unless the economic, financial and political structural obstacles that exist at the international level are removed.

It is very necessary to break down the barriers and monopolies that leave not only so many individuals behind, but also so many countries on the margins of development. Therefore, we strongly appeal for a higher commitment to effective international solidarity and cooperation among States, also through the full implementation of the Right to Development.

Thank You!