

Oral Statement delivered by: Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), Dominicans for Justice and Peace, International Volunteerism Organisation for Women, Education, Development (VIDES International), Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA); OIDEL .

**Title: Paediatric HIV prevention/treatment and Social Determinants of Health**

APG23 and the co-signatory NGOs take note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health. Regrettably, the report does not mention explicitly the crucial role of the Social Determinants of Health in determining inequalities that underpin availability, accessibility, affordability, and acceptability of health care for all the children of the world. It also fails to propose clear recommendations to overcome structural and societal obstacles that constitute root causes of poor health.

In sub-Saharan Africa, more than 1,000 new-borns are infected with HIV every day, despite available medical interventions. Approximately 50% of HIV-positive pregnant women in sub-Saharan Africa are not accessing or adhering to the necessary medications to prevent mother-to-child transmission.

Some barriers to PMTCT, which are faced by women, stem from the broader macro-level economic and social conditions, such as persistent unequal power between men and women; legal discrimination against women; low economic and education status of women; domestic violence and stigma.

Only 28% percent of children living in low- and middle-income countries and in need of anti-retroviral medications are afforded access to them.

To eliminate the vertical transmission of HIV and meet the Millennium Development Goals, interventions need to move beyond the individual-level and address the structural and social barriers that prevent women and children from utilizing PMTCT services and access treatment.

Only through a combination of individual, community, and structural interventions will we achieve an AIDS-free generation.

In this regard, the implementation of the Right to Development is essential for the respect, protection and fulfilment of the right to health and for addressing the social determinants of health.

The co-signatory NGOs call upon the member States to:

- Addressing the Social Determinants of Health as they are crucial for achieving global public health;
- Establishing a post-2015 Development Agenda that takes into account the removal of structural and societal obstacles to global health;
- Implementing speedily and concretely the Right to Development of individuals and peoples by creating an enabling environment at national, regional, and international levels;
- Investment in research on social determinants of health to provide more evidence-based knowledge on how such determinants influence population health and health equity;
- Assurance of universal access to ART (antiretroviral therapy) for adults and children living with HIV/AIDS;
- Development of national HIV/AIDS Strategic Plans that focus on PMTCT and integrate PMTCT programmes into existing public health systems;

Thank You