



30h Regular Session of the Human Rights Council - 14 September – 2 October 2015

Item 3– General Debate

Joint oral statement

Mr President,

Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII takes note that the Peoples of the United Nations don't have yet a Declaration on the right to peace as per mandate of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group.

In April, the third open-ended intergovernmental working group on Right to Peace regrettably did not reach consensus on a meaningful declaration on right to peace, but concluded its session with a text that contains many issues still within brackets.

We would like to reiterate that the Human Rights Council has the historical opportunity to offer, coinciding with the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations Charter, a solemn Declaration that would include a specific human right to peace. This opportunity should not and cannot be missed.

As Pope Francis said in his last Encyclical letter “Laudato sii”: “Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life”¹

It is absolutely important to recognize the right to peace as a step forward to the full respect of all the other human rights, including the right to development and the elimination of structural injustices and economic and social violence.

APG23 and do hope that at the 30th regular session of the Human Rights Council, a consensus will be reached on the draft text of the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Right to Peace without further diluting it.

In particular, we call on Member States to take a step forward in the promotion of peace by adopting a declaration that proclaims the human right to peace, or at least the “right to enjoy peace” - thus producing an instrument that can be both consensual and meaningful for generations to come.

It is time to give an effective application in international law of the right to peace, as a fundamental human right and a necessary prerequisite for every other right.

Thank you

¹ Pope Francis, Encyclical Letter “Laudato sii”, p. 207