

Draft Resolution on Protection of the Family

Comments by Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)

Title of the resolution

APG23 agrees with the title of the draft resolution as it is now, but, in order to reinforce the title and to reaffirm what is stated in article 16.3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we suggest the following modified title:

“Protection of the Family as natural and fundamental group unit of society”

During the informal consultations, some member States proposed the title “Protection of Human Rights in the family” but such a title will shift the focus of the resolution from the duty of States to protect the family to other issues.

Moreover, in the last informal consultation several delegates insisted on the focus on the individual rights of the different members of the family. This is not the right perspective. It is true that the family is the sum of its single components but it is also something more than this. Family is an unique group unit that brings in itself the values of love, belonging and memory even when single members cease to exist and/or depart from it. It is also an engine to development and active contributor to the well being of society. This added value of being a natural and fundamental group unit (UDHR 16.3 + ICCPR 23.1 + ICESCR 10.1), needs to be protected by States.

PP1 OK

PP2 APG23 suggests to include in the list mentioned in this paragraph also the **International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families**.

PP3 OK

PP4 OK

APG23 does not agree with the suggestion of some Member States to delete the reference to development in this paragraph, because the family has a fundamental role in development and strengthening family centred policies and programmes should be put in place to recognise the contribution of the family to development.

PP5 OK

Additional comment: surprisingly, some Member States attempt to depart from the UDHR that so well affirms the role of family in society and the duty of States to protect it. It is crucial **to preserve the universality of Human Rights** by not allowing the hard law to be put under discussion.

PP5 bis APG23 suggests a PP5 bis as follows:

“Reaffirming also that the family, as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, is entitled to the widest possible protection and assistance by society and States so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community

PP6to be deleted and shifted to PP5 bis as suggested

OP1 OK

OP2 ...to include NGOs in the list

OP3 OK

OP4 to be kept as it is ...because it is very important to keep high the attention on the issue of the family at the HRC and in the UNITED Nations System