



42nd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council (6 - 27 September 2019)

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

ITEM 3: Clustered ID with the SR on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and the SR on hazardous wastes

Check against delivery

Mr President,

APG23 takes note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation in which he focuses on the realization of the human rights to water and sanitation in spheres of life beyond the household, with a particular emphasis on public spaces.¹

This report gives the opportunity to highlight how essential is access to water and sanitation to the enjoyment of other rights and to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda promises.

Former FAO Director General Jose Graziano da Silva wrote: "Access to clean water and sanitation is essential for life, and it is the basis for maintaining a healthy life and helping millions of people out of poverty and hunger,"²

Rightly, the Special Rapporteur indicates water and sanitation as one of the most important determinants of health.

Denied or restricted access to water and sanitation in spheres of life beyond the household puts health and lives at risk and dignity at stake. The poor, the marginalized, the sick, adults and children on the move, those in refugee camps, prisoners, among others are paying, once again, the highest price.

"The right to water is essential for the survival of persons and decisive for the future of humanity".³

Water should never be turned into a privatized commodity, subject to profit laws. Echoing Pope Francis, our common home has to become a more liveable and fraternal place, where none is rejected or excluded, but everybody enjoys the goods needed to live and grow in dignity.

We would like the SR to elaborate on the role of civil society in the development of new policies centred on solidarity, equality and justice not allowing political and economic interest to overcome the right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all in spheres of life beyond the household.

Thank you!

¹ A/HRC/42/47

² <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1188075/icode/>

³ <https://www.catholicnews.com/services/englishnews/2017/promote-life-by-protecting-sharing-clean-water-pope-says.cfm>