



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

**Item 5, General Debate: 2019 Social Forum**

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

*Check against delivery*

Madame President,

APG23 welcomes the summary report of the Social Forum held in Geneva on 1 and 2 October 2019 on the theme: “The promotion and protection of the rights of children and youth through education”.<sup>1</sup>

During the Social Forum reference was made also on inclusive education for children with disabilities, remarking the positive effect that inclusive schools and education have on society at large.

Institutions should commit themselves to ensure fully inclusive education in which every child can develop his/her personality, talents and abilities to their full potential. Schools should be characterized by the spirit of welcoming and cooperation, realizing the idea of a society where no one is left behind and contributing to the dissemination of a culture of equal dignity and respect of human rights for all.

We reiterate the need of a fraternal and inclusive society with policies that stem from solidarity, social justice and respect of human rights for all.

As Dr. Koumbou Boly Barry, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, emphasized in her intervention at the Social Forum, it is important “to promote diversity, tolerance and solidarity, as fundamental parts of education”.

According to Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, education “shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms”. Inclusive education provides everyone with an equitable and quality education, by offering the opportunity for interpersonal enrichment and enhancement of diversity. An inclusive school can be a laboratory where future generations could be formed to the principles of non-violence, tolerance and acceptance of differences, being fertile ground for the creation of peaceful and intercultural societies.

We call upon all Member States to strengthen their efforts towards the achievement of SDG 4 and its targets to ensure a more inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

Thank you!

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/43/63