

32nd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 13 June -1 July 2016

Item 3: Clustered Interactive Dialogue with the Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity

Joint oral statement

“Towards a Right to International solidarity”

Mr President,

APG23 and other # co-signing NGOs welcome the report of Ms Virginia Dandan, the Independent Expert on Human Rights and International Solidarity, in which she gives a summary of the five regional consultations on the draft declaration on the right to international solidarity.

The main representative of APG23 participated actively to two regional consultations, namely the regional consultation with representatives of Western Europe and Other States, and of Eastern Europe States, in Geneva and the one with African States in Addis Ababa, giving inputs on both the content and the format of the draft declaration.

As the Independent Expert points out in the conclusions of the report, recurring issues have emerged from the regional consultations, which have not been resolved, including the qualification of “non-state actors” and the identification of rights holders and duty bearers, and also the definition of the right itself.

Our NGOs would like to reiterate that the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity draws on articles 1, 28 and 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and puts current state’s human rights obligations and ethical responsibilities of non-state actors in a new context.

There is a great need to move from the principle of international solidarity towards the recognition of the right of individuals and peoples to international solidarity. In our globalised and interconnected world several challenges such as, inter alia, climate change, increased inequities between and within countries, the supremacy of finance and economics over politics and the unprecedented migration flux require such a step ahead.

We are convinced that the draft declaration on the right to international solidarity could tackle these challenges efficiently and would reinforce the importance of human rights in these issues.

Furthermore, the recognition of the right to international solidarity would be crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and of the climate agreement of COP 21 in Paris and for the progress of the human family towards equality and social justice. It is an added value to the panoply of human rights as it enables the fulfilment of all the other human rights.

“We support the idea that “the text should be shortened” and “to use of a more traditional format for declarations”, adopting later a Guidelines *to orient* the practice of States and non-state actors in implementing *the right to* international solidarity.

Finally, the co-signing NGOs look forward for the revised text of the declaration and fully support the suggestion made by Ms Dandan to convene an expert meeting to examine the first revision of the draft declaration, with a view to giving specific recommendations for its finalization before submission of the final text by the end of her term in June 2017.

Thank you!