

JOINT ORAL STATEMENT on INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY and HUMAN RIGHTS

By the Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII-(NGO in Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC), Caritas Internationalis (NGO in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC), Dominicans , Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers) (Special Consultative status with ECOSOC) and New Humanity (NGO in General Consultative Status with ECOSOC).

Thank you, Mr. President.

The Associazione Comunita' Papa Giovanni XXIII, Caritas Internationalis, , Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers) and New Humanity, warmly welcome the report of Mr. Rizki, the Independent Expert on International Solidarity and Human Rights, and highly appreciate the balance with which the various contributions from Member States and other stakeholders are reflected in the report.

Moreover, the report offers valuable insights on the definition, interpretation, and implications of international solidarity, as well as on relevant existing international law in this domain. In order to contribute to the current debate, we would like to draw the attention of Member States and other stakeholders to the following observations and recommendations:

1. While international solidarity, first and foremost, should be respected as a moral imperative, we also recommend that solidarity be recognised as an individual and collective right according to the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations and art. 28 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
2. We prefer the term “international solidarity”, rather than “global solidarity”. In our opinion, it better expresses the concept of the extraterritorial obligations of Member States without excluding the responsibilities and engagement of other relevant stakeholders, in particular, the private sector and civil society;
3. In our globalised world, where inequities and injustice are on the increase within and between countries, the ongoing process to recognize the right of international solidarity is a crucial strategy to respect, protect, and fulfil human rights in an environment of peace, security, and sustainable development;
4. Humanitarian actions to address natural disasters and calamities, such as the earthquake in Haiti or the flood in Pakistan, are valid global responses. However, they reflect a solidarity *post factum*. As the Independent Expert rightly emphasized in the conclusion of the report, a solidarity that is *ante factum*, or preventive, also is needed, since it has the potential to addresses “the core need for justice and equity at the national and international levels”.

5. With regard to humanitarian action, some examples of *ante factum* solidarity include disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, and integral human development, the aims of which are to reduce vulnerability and to strengthen coping mechanisms among the poorest individuals, families, and communities.
6. International cooperation is part and parcel of, but not synonymous with, international solidarity. Fulfilment of the international commitments to Official Development Assistance is fundamental to reduce the gap between the developing countries and the developed countries. This gap could be reduced further through the adoption of the concept of “twinship”, where a developed country offers to accompany a developing country (and vice versa) in achieving its right to development without attaching conditionalities but in a relationship of mutual exchange of experiences, benefits, human, financial and cultural resources;
7. Finally, the recognition of the right of international solidarity could serve as the foundation of international commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goal # 8 related to global partnership and as a key pre-requisite for attaining the other MDGs as well.

In conclusion, Mr. President, our organisations would like to emphasize that an integrated approach, based on the principles of both solidarity and subsidiarity, can ensure a fully inclusive and equitable process of globalisation.

The Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Caritas Internationalis, Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers) and New Humanity wish to renew their commitment at all levels, from grassroots level to international, to contribute toward shaping a society based on fraternity, reciprocity, social justice, equity, and sustainable development, all of which are crucial for living in peace and harmony as the global human family.

Thank you, Mr. President.