



ASSOCIAZIONE COMUNITÀ PAPA GIOVANNI XXIII

22nd Session Human Rights Council – Item 6 Universal Periodic Review of Zambia;

14 march 2013 oral statement by Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII

Mister President,

APG23 welcomes the constructive participation of Zambia in the UPR process and recognises the commitment of the Government to providing equal educational opportunities to all children.

Our concerns regard the situation of disabled children.

Even though the Government issued the Persons with Disabilities Act 2012, Zambia should take measures to ensure that every school is accessible to all disabled children, should provide special education programs and increase the number of teachers trained in special education.

APG23 recommends the full eradication of corporal punishment, other degrading treatments and any act of violence against children at school.

Girl pupils still suffer disadvantages and discrimination.

APg23 urges Zambia to fully implement CEDAW, especially article 10, and to carry out awareness campaigns that encourage girls to attend school, as well as to ensure a re-entry policy for girls who have had a child.

On right to health, APG23 welcomes the efforts of the Government to increase financial resources, especially in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

However, the Government should take steps to guarantee the full realisation of the right to adequate food that is linked intrinsically to health and life; the lack of access to food and safe drinking water are major obstacles to HIV treatment.

Moreover, APG23 encourages the Government to pay particular attention to the problem of acute and chronic malnutrition as an important issue in the treatment of HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

We are concerned about the lack of skills and tools necessary to prevent and treat malnutrition. And call on Zambia to take measures to train adequately all health personnel on the diagnosis and treatment of acute malnutrition.

Furthermore, we demand to make available RUTF (Ready to Use Therapeutic Food) to malnourished children and to ensure its administration by a competent authority.

We also call for the immediate realization of national, provincial and district task forces to assess the effects of treatment; and for the government to formulate Agricultural policies that favour the production of local food and nutrition education programmes targeting schools, adolescents, and especially pregnant women by using the best food resources.

Thank you, Mister President