

Joint Oral Statement

“Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights”



APG23 and other 8 co-signing NGOs take note of the Secretary General’s Report on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights, that focuses on the right to a remedy and on access to justice.



States bear the primary responsibility to protect human rights and fundamental freedom within their boundaries and must make efforts according to their capacity to realise expeditiously economic, social and cultural rights of their people.

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Unfortunately, many developing countries cannot yet provide for the full realisation of economic, social and cultural rights of their people; in view of expanding global interdependence, it is imperative to recognize that the respect of human rights is a shared responsibility between all members of the international community, States and non-states actors.



It is paramount to combat poverty and inequities by addressing the root causes of violation of economic, social and cultural rights. Such root causes include the international structural obstacles to the realisation of the right to development.



Otherwise, it is quite unrealistic to speak about remedies and access to justice only at national level.

It will be also difficult, if not impossible, for the millions of starving people to claim their right, or for the millions of illiterates in the world who are not able to know their rights, to ask for remedies. Millions of children and adults who don’t have yet access to medicines will die before being able to claim a remedy.



The full realization of the right to health, food, education, shelter, work, safe drinking water and sanitation etc., will occur when the principle of equitable contribution and access to and sharing of the benefits of development lead the political choices of States and non-States actors.



New Humanity

We urgently need the implementation of the Right to Development and the recognition of other solidarity rights such as the Right to International Solidarity and the Right to Peace.



The co-signing NGOs, present at grass-root level and working with people living in poverty, would like to emphasize that it is time to fulfil extraterritorial obligations that are contained in the international human rights law and that remedies should not be limited at a domestic level but established also at regional and international level.



Furthermore, we urge all States to sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and to use the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights in the formulation and implementation of poverty reduction and eradication policies. Thank You!