



28<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Human Rights Council –2 to 27 March 2015, Item 3 –Clustered interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

## Joint Oral Statement

### “CHILDREN ARE NOT FOR SALE!”

Mr President,

Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII and the co-signing NGOs, take note of the Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

We welcome the methods of work – especially *“the implementation of comprehensive strategies aimed at the establishment of right-based national child protection system”*.

We also strongly support the intention of the Special Rapporteur to *“take a consultative and participatory approach in the implementation of the mandate”* adopting a *“child-centred approach”*.

Surely, children have not to be seen *“exclusively as passive recipients, victims or dependants, but as rights holders and citizens who are entitled to be heard and to have their views taken seriously”*<sup>1</sup>.

To *“Ensure complementarity with other special procedures mandate holders who address cross-cutting issues of concern”* is also a good strategy to tackle the complexity and diffusion of sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, a scourge that affects our society and our future.

We are firmly convinced that this abominable phenomenon can be addressed- and eradicated - only by fighting against the root causes that are at its base with attention to *“all the contributing factors, including demand”*.

Children, especially girls, are victims of this tremendous exploitation because they are in situations of poverty and marginalization, because they don't attend school and/or are forced to help in some ways their vulnerable families.

Human beings should not be treated as merchandise.

In this regard, we also invite the Special Rapporteur to tackle in her future reports the issue of commercial motherhood surrogacy, an emerging phenomenon that can amount to sale of children.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> A/69/262 p.5/13