



Co-signed also by: Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul

28th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council –2 to 27 March 2015 – Item 2 ID with HC

Joint Oral Statement

“The protection of the family”

APG23 and the co-signing NGOs take note of the Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights¹ entitled “Summary of the Human Rights Council panel discussion on the protection of the family”.

Many international instruments whether under international human rights law or international humanitarian law protect the right of the family to live as an integral whole and affirm it as the natural and fundamental group unit of society.

Notwithstanding the fact that human rights of individuals must be always protected within the family, to focus only on the rights of family members as advocated by some States, means to deny that the family is much more than the sum of its individuals. The family, in fact, is a community of persons bonded by love and life, where husband and wife, parents and children, grand parents and relatives live in reciprocity, mutual donation and a sense of belonging contributing as a whole to the good of society.

In this regard, we regret the fact that many States and some United Nations agencies portray the family more as a “problem” than as a resource.

Due to rapid socio-economic and demographic transformations that have affected society and culture in recent years, the family finds itself increasingly challenged.

The economic situation has caused many families to be separated by migration and the search for employment; financial problems strain many households in almost all countries. While all too many people live in dire poverty, others are caught up in materialism and lifestyles that are destructive of family life.

States and international organizations must commit to enact effective policies and measures to provide the necessary comprehensive support for the family and its members.

There is need to promote affordable, accessible and quality care services for children and other dependents, parental and other leave schemes, as well as formulating family sensitive policies in the field of housing, work, health, social security and education in order to create an environment supportive of the family.

In protecting the family, every society actually protects itself.

Thank You!

¹ A/HRC/28/40