



## **29th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council - 15 June - 3 July 2015**

### **Item 5, Human rights bodies and mechanisms – OEIWG on the Right to Peace**

Joint oral statement co-signed by the following NGOs:

**Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)**  
**International Peace Bureau**  
**Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of The Good Sheperd**  
**Pax Romana**  
**OCAPROCE International**  
**Mothers Legacy Project**  
**African Commission of Health Promoters and Human Rights. (CAPSDH)**  
**Culture of Afro-Indigenous Solidarity<sup>1</sup>**  
**Institute for Planetary Synthesis**  
**Institute of Global Education**

Mr President,

Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII and other 9 co-signing NGOs congratulate the Chairperson Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on right to peace for his endless diplomatic efforts to reach consensus during the third session of the Working Group.

Regrettably, the output of the Working group did not mark a quantum leap forward towards a meaningful declaration on right to peace.

We would like to reiterate that the Human Rights Council has the historical opportunity to offer, coinciding with the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations Charter, a solemn Declaration that would include a specific human right to peace. This opportunity should not and cannot be missed.

The recent conflicts, such as the one in Syria, the violence perpetrated by ISIS, the persecutions of Christians and religious minorities reveal a world that struggles in finding its way to peace.

As Pope Francis said in several occasions: “ We have entered into the third world-war, this time carried out in pieces”

---

<sup>1</sup> NGO without ECOSOC status

It is absolutely important to recognize the right to peace as a step forward to the full respect of all the other human rights, including the right to development, and for the elimination of structural injustices and economic and social violence.

APG23 and the co-signing NGOs do hope that at the 29<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Human Rights Council, a consensus will be reached on the draft text of the Chairperson of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Right to Peace without further diluting it.

In particular, we call on Member States to take a step forward in the promotion of peace by adopting a declaration that recognizes the “right to enjoy peace” - thus producing an instrument that can be both consensual and meaningful for generations to come.

Thank you