



40th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council (25 February- 22 March 2019)

Oral statement delivered by Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23)

ITEM 5: Report on the Social Forum 2018

“Sports and human rights “

Mr President,

APG23 welcomes the summary report of the 2018 Social Forum, focusing on *“using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them.”*

In its conclusions the report stated: “The values and skills transmitted through sports created unique opportunities for the promotion of peace, reconciliation, understanding and solidarity. Sports and human rights underpinned the national and international drive towards realization of the 2030 Agenda.”¹

Sport and Olympic ideals can be a mean to promote education, health, development and peace all around the world. They play a major role in respecting, protecting and fulfilling human rights for all and are used in the promotion and strengthening of universal respect for human rights.²

When children and adolescents are allowed and guaranteed practicing sports and its values sport combats discrimination among them and helps to build up more peaceful and inclusive societies in which everyone is included and no one is left behind.

In our experience, sports and play are opportunities for exercise and learning solidarity, inclusion, non-discrimination and peaceful resolution of conflicts, all ways to build a more inclusive and respectful of human rights society.

We would like to echo the words of Pope Francis: “In a culture dominated by individualism sports is a privileged area around which people meet without any distinction of race, sex, religion, or ideology, and where we can experience the joy of competing to reach a goal together, participating in a team, where success or defeat is shared and overcome; all this makes sports a catalyst for experiences of community, of the human family.”³

Thank You!

¹ A/HRC/40/72

² <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/SForum/Pages/SForum2018.aspx>

³ http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2018/documents/papa-francesco_20180601_lettera-card-farrell.html