



42nd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council (6 - 27 September 2019)

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

ITEM 2 - General debate on the oral update by the High Commissioner

Mr President,

APG23 would like to express its gratitude to the High Commissioner for raising once more the concern on the climate emergency that the whole human family, but especially the most vulnerable, is facing. As Ms Bachelet stated, “The window of opportunity for action may be closing – but there is still time to act”. With this in mind, we hope that Member States finally make themselves promoters of a real change that is as much radical as necessary.

Regarding the issue of migration, one of the most shameful pages in the recent history of the Mediterranean is taking place before our eyes. As asserted also by the HC, the work of humanitarian rescue vessels resists as a concrete symbol in a time in which humanity and hope seem to have disappeared.

We reaffirm that the international commitments of States must be upheld, as people on the move cannot be considered threats to national security. Accordingly, rescue on land and at sea remains an indisputable and just action.

Even more important would be to put an end to the desperation that leads to flee from one's own country, to restore hope and human dignity to those who have seen everything taken away, as someone's fate cannot be decided by his passport.

Mr President, we are here to break the silence that made the Mediterranean a cemetery and Libya a hell. For this reason, we maintain that is indeed time to undermine a system that produces illegality, traffickers, deaths on the one hand and populism, nationalisms and racisms on the other.

Thank you!