



45th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 14 September – 6 October 2020

Item 5: General Debate: Report of the Advisory Committee on the importance of a legally binding instrument on the right to development (HRC res. 39/9 and 42/23)

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

Check against delivery

Madame President,

APG23 welcomes the Report of the Advisory Committee on the importance of a legally binding instrument on the right to development and shares the need and the call for a framework to face the realisation of a new more humane and responsible social and international order.

The potential added value of a right to development treaty is to complement the current human rights regime with a convention that goes beyond individual States responsibility and takes inspiration from principles derived from international development efforts, such as mutual accountability, alignment of policies among partner countries and inclusive partnership.

Codification of the right to development is crucial for reducing inequities and for leaving no one behind. The right to development, in its individual and collective dimension, is for everyone but, especially for vulnerable people, the poor and marginalised groups.

A new model is needed, able to balance human and environmental priorities and concerns. Proposals that address both issues exist, and proved to be able to reinforce each other. The “Build Back Better” vision - that has been proposed by several governmental as well as non-governmental institutions as the key strategy to recover after COVID-19 should put at the centre human needs and planetary boundaries, in concordance with the right to the development and the SDGs.

We agree with the necessity of moving from rhetoric and ideological debates to focusing on practical solutions. We believe that the call for the right to development can be more impactful and gain consensus if it becomes more concrete, presenting specific policies and good practices that can be inspiring for States as well as for non-State actors. Identifying the obstacles and proposing practical solutions to overcome them will improve on the ground people’s wellbeing and open the way to sound arguments for a legally binding instrument.

Thank you!