



Confédération internationale
Société de Saint Vincent de Paul

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

Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on right to development

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

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Madam President,

Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23) and other 13 co-signing NGOs welcome the first report of the Expert Mechanism on right to development.

Regrettably, due to the lockdown measures and travel restrictions imposed in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and for technical reasons, the first session of the Expert Mechanism held in New York from 30 June to 2 July 2020, was not accessible either physically or virtually.

We are confident that the new Expert Mechanism on the right to development will fulfil the mandate in the best possible manner without duplicating the work undertaken by other related mechanisms and will bring its active and valuable contribution in the discussion for the draft of a legally binding instrument on the right to development at the forthcoming 21st session of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Working Group.

The two overarching objectives of the Expert Mechanism - to mainstream, reinvigorate and operationalize the right to development; and to enhance the ability of grass-roots organizations

to use the right to development - are, indeed, very important as it is necessary to go beyond rhetoric, to identify obstacles to the realization of the right to development and to make concrete policy recommendations on how to overcome them.

We also welcome the choice of the six thematic studies to be carried out by the Expert Mechanism during the period of its mandate.

The Right to Development is not yet well known by the general public as well as at grass-root level and there is a need for it to be widely recognised in our present world. Has the Expert Mechanism thought to develop, together with the RTD section of OHCHR, a communication strategy for filling this gap?

How does the Expert Mechanism intend to be engaged in the High-Level Political Forum to contribute in pushing ahead the vision of the right to development that is so crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda?

Thank you!