



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

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development

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

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Madam President,

APG23 and 10 co-signing NGOs welcome the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development on the theme of financing for development at the national level (FFD).

FFD should be carried out at all levels based on the perspective of participation. Rights-holders, individuals, communities, particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups, should be always involved in the decision-making and evaluation process.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that States play a pivotal role in facing global challenges. States should put into action policies that address the crisis focusing on health, on financial help with debt relief and cash grants.

States should also enhance support for working activities in accordance with the best interest of the workers, ensuring economic stimulus packages. Rebalancing the distribution of wealth through proper tax policies, countering corruption and tax havens, are crucial elements to provide States with the essential tools to assure the right to development. The structural crisis highlighted by the causes and consequences of COVID-19 call for a paradigmatic change on how development is conceived and pursued, putting the interest of the environment and of those in situation of vulnerability and marginalisation at the fore.

It is our hope that States adopt proper reporting mechanisms such as the Voluntary National Review at the High-Level Political Forum and the Universal Periodic Review. States should also control private actors through appropriate regulation and ensure redress to individuals and groups who are harmed by the actions of those private actors who have been not adequately controlled.

We particularly highlight a relevant and innovative mechanism for financing for development, that is, to reduce military expenditures¹. Resources resulting from such cuts of weapons could be used for social expenditures and the achievement of the SDGs; thus, investing in practices and policies that enhance human well-being instead of threatening it.

At the international level, there is a need to increase international cooperation, reinforce multilateralism and cancel the external debt for those countries that are disproportionately affected by the economic challenges created by the pandemic. States should oblige with their commitment to release 0.7% of their GNI for Official Development Assistance and even increase the amount because of the COVID-19 crisis. Thank you!

¹ Article 7 of the Declaration on the Right to Development