



46th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 22 February – 23 March 2021

**Item 3 - General Debate - Report on the third intersessional meeting on HR and the 2030
Agenda**

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

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Madame President,

APG23 participated in the third intersessional meeting on Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda.

The emergence of COVID-19 has paved the way to a widespread erosion of human rights throughout various parts of the world. As a matter of fact, under the guise of security the violations of the human rights of the most vulnerable are many, notwithstanding countless efforts made by civil society as well as States and the United Nations.

More specifically, COVID-19 further exacerbated existing problems such as widespread corruption, inequalities, lack of access to health services, and endemic violence.

Urgent measures should be taken to reduce inequalities such as debt cancellation for the least developed countries, ending unilateral coercive measures and countering tax havens and corruption. Likewise, States should respect all the commitments taken internationally, including the Paris agreement.

There is a need to implement meaningful reforms in global governance, most notably in the economic domain in order to ensure equality, democracy and accountability in line with human rights standards. There is also a need to address urgently the issue of access to the medical products against COVID-19, including vaccines, as a global security problem with firm political decisions based on multilateralism. The question of the patent on the vaccines must also be considered urgently to identify localised production in Africa, Latin America and Asia and accelerate access to the vaccines before it is too late.

Finally, time has come to speedily proceed on finalising and approving a treaty on the Right to Development and giving a legal dimension to international solidarity recognising it as a right.

Thank you!