



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

Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities: “Participation in sport under article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities”

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

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Madame President,

APG23 welcomes the discussion about “Participation in sport under the article 30 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities” and thanks the Office of the United Nation High Commissioner for Human Rights for the report¹.

All over the world, people with disabilities are still subject to discrimination and stigma and sport can play an important role in inclusion processes at different levels, in society, in school, and at the workplace. Promoting inclusive sporting activity means promoting social integration between people with or without disabilities for the benefit of the whole society.

APG23 is globally committed to the promotion and full recognition of the dignity of people with disabilities and of their essential role in building a new humanity and a new society and is engaged in different activities that promote inclusion.

Some of our programs dealing with sports and disabilities adopt actions aimed at reducing the percentage of the sedentary population, promoting sports practices carried out outdoors for an "eco-sustainable" culture of sport and encouraging the integration process between sports and school systems. Some projects include a high level of innovation and creativity to better facilitate integration/inclusion through the practice of specific sports that stimulate relationships and collaboration.

In this moment in which, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, people with disabilities are so hardly hit by the disease, isolated by the measures to contain it and, most probably, impoverished in the aftermath of the outbreak, we urge the Member States to facilitate and promote the participation of people with disabilities in the “building back better” plans so that every aspect of their life, including sport, may be given proper consideration.

Thank You!