



47th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council (21 June - 15 July 2021)

ITEM 3: ID with Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity

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

“On international solidarity in aid of the realization of human rights during and after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.”

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Madam President,

APG23 and other 10 co-signing NGOs take note of the report¹ of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity on the issue of international solidarity in aid of the realization of human rights during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 has put the world in turmoil giving origin to a pandemic that, with its devastating impact on the life and livelihoods of people across the world and its effects on health, social fabric, economics etc., represents the most serious, uncertain crises faced by humanity in recent history. It has exacerbated existing inequalities within and across countries to such an extent that they can no longer be ignored.

As Mr. Okafor rightly affirms in his report, the measures taken to combat the pandemic “have had deleterious consequences for the poor, the low-income earners and the millions who rely on informal activities”.

With this pandemic, Member States are confronted with a litmus test on their commitment to promote, respect and fulfil human rights and to achieve sustainable development and peace. In the resolution A/RES/74/270 adopted on 2 April 2020, Member States have recognized that “the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and renewed multilateral cooperation”. Such words will be empty if not followed by deeds. In fact, a clear example of the lack of solidarity and multilateral cooperation, is the unfair distribution of vaccines around the world with only 0.3% of all vaccines gone to people in low-income countries.

Mr. Okafor, do you agree that recognising international solidarity as a right would be crucial in addressing the impacts of present-day global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic?

We were pleased that in the report to the 75th General Assembly² you included among the recommendations the adoption of the draft declaration on the right to international solidarity. We recommend you to make such a recommendation whenever possible. Thank you!

¹ A/HRC/44/44

² A/75/180