



## **47th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 21 June – 15 July 2021**

### **Panel discussion on the human rights of older persons in the context of climate change**

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

*Check against delivery*

Madam President,

APG23 recognizes the importance of this panel discussion on human rights of older persons in the context of climate change.

It is clear how older persons will pay a high price due to the climate crisis. The needs of older people in terms of health, living environment, economic and social support, nutrition and housing are put under great pressure.

For example, the exposure to sudden and traumatic events in addition to the loss of their home, as can be the case in the context of climate change, may affect mental health, and might have serious consequences on the autonomy of the elderly persons.

Climate change poses a threat to health and survival of the whole humanity. It is not something that can take us by surprise and we must adopt approaches that will not leave anyone behind. The pillars of the responses must be based on human rights, international cooperation, fraternity and solidarity.

During the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic crisis we are becoming more and more aware on how important it is for each one to be safe and how a two-speed world cannot work in any circumstance. If countries do not cooperate and work in solidarity many lives are at risk and especially the ones of the most vulnerable.

We would like to end with the words of Pope Francis: “a society deserves the qualification ‘civil’ if it develops antibodies against the culture of waste; if it recognizes the intangible value of human life; if solidarity is actively practiced and safeguarded as the foundation of coexistence”.<sup>1</sup>

We would like to ask the panellists: in which way the recognition of the right to international solidarity can help in the elaboration of policies to combat climate change?

Thank you!

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-01/pope-society-is-civil-if-it-fights-against-a-culture-of-waste.html>