



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

**Item 3: ID with the SR on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health**

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

*Check against delivery*

Madam President,

APG23 takes note of the report from the SR on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.<sup>1</sup>

Recent events have demonstrated how health deserves a place in policy priorities all around the world and that in order to achieve global health we must be united and work towards real international cooperation and multilateralism.

In her report the special rapporteur recalls that: “the right to health is closely related to and dependent upon the realization of other human rights, including the rights to life, non-discrimination, equality, the prohibition against torture ....” Therefore, we are surprised by the recall of abortion in the context of the right to health without any consideration for the right to health and life of the unborn child.

We would like to underline that "The human being is to be respected and treated as a person from the moment of conception; and therefore, from that same moment his rights as a person must be recognized...."<sup>2</sup>

We would like the SR to focus on the many social determinants affecting the health of women, for example the ones leading to many exploiting situations (i.e., trafficking, sexual slavery just to name a few)

We look forward working together on important themes such as inequalities, determinants of health, gender-based violence, SDGs, and especially, access to COVID-19 vaccines, just to name few of the issues at stake, and we will engage in further discussions.

Thank you!

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/47/28

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf\\_jp-ii\\_enc\\_25031995\\_evangelium-vitae.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.html)