



Confédération
internationale
Société de Saint
Vincent de Paul



48th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 13 September – 8 October 2021

Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on right to development

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

Madam President,

APG23 and the co-signing NGOs welcome the report of the Expert Mechanism¹ on the right to development and its first thematic study.

We believe that the promotion of the right to development is imperative when addressing inequalities across the globe and its implementation should not be confined to the attainment of the Agenda 2030 but reach beyond the defined Goals and become a permanent trademark for relations among States.

As a result of the pandemic, many developing countries had to waive their social protection programmes. The emergency situation should prompt industrialised economies to act on social protection mechanisms. These policies should lean towards the direct empowerment of the most vulnerable people involving non-State actors.

Resolution A/HRC/46/14 calls upon States and other relevant stakeholders to take appropriate measures to ensure an efficient, universal and timely distribution of vaccines through international cooperation tools. Such words will be empty if not followed by actions.

We fully agree with all the recommendations made by the Expert mechanism and especially recommendation k) that frames the COVID-19 vaccines as global public goods. Here, the COVAX facilities and other relevant initiatives shall be strengthened while intellectual property rights on vaccines should be lifted. This is the only way the international community can cope with the crisis and the right to development should serve as a benchmark for present and future issues.

Thank You !
