



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

Item 2: General Debate on High Commissioner oral updates

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

Check against delivery

Madam High Commissioner,

APG23 is seriously concerned about the unjust distribution of vaccines around the world, hindering an effective action against COVID-19.

The rhetoric heard during more than a year of pandemic has clashed with the reality of today's politics: no one should have been left behind, yet, some have been.

Let us be honest here: "no one is safe until everyone is safe" has for many become an empty phrase without action. It is clear that the more Governments think only about what happens within their borders, the more the world becomes unsafe.

Since October 2020 we are seeing some countries blocking the proposal to waive certain provisions of the TRIPS agreement for COVID-19 products and technologies. As we are facing the worst humanitarian and medical emergency of recent history, we are seeing extra-profit on one side, and death and desolation on the other.

Solidarity, social justice, empowerment, development are words used by convenience as they are disregarded in political decisions essential to nations and people everywhere. We must remind ourselves that we should not race against each other, but only against the virus!

If we really want the world to be safe, we need policies that improve access to all available tools to combat COVID-19, starting from today's choices and not from choices to be taken tomorrow, because tomorrow will be too late.

I thank you!