



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

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences

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

Madam President,

APG23 welcomes the report of Mr Obokata on the particular nexus between displacement and contemporary forms of slavery. The vulnerabilities that affect internationally displaced persons, refugees, asylum seekers, and all those people seeking for decent living conditions outside of their own country are increasingly shaping survival perspectives and undermining the dignity of many men, women and children all over the world.

So far, our social protection programme cared for hundreds of women, victims of sexual slavery. In line with the report, Nigeria still holds the majority of women rescued from prostitution and hosted in our centres.

Despite the long experience and good practices implemented to protect these vulnerable groups and prevent such forms of slavery, particularly in cases of displacement, the situation remains highly problematic and the phenomenon keeps worsening and steeping in times of a global pandemic.

States labour regulations, social protection programmes, international borders management and weak human rights institutions are at the centre of such violations of human dignity for all those moving across countries to survive and rebuild a dignified life. We strongly need to address lawmakers and to enforce national policies to make sure that every person on this planet is free from exploitation and persecution.

Mr Obokata, APG23 is looking forward to working with you on this matter in order to ensure a dignified life for all.

Thank You!