



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

**Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation**

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

Madam President,

APG23 welcomes the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

Mr. Arrojo-Agudo as you noted in your report, an estimated 2.2 billion people in the world do not have access to safe drinking water and 4.2 billion people do not have access to safe sanitation. the vast majority of these are impoverished people living next to rivers or polluted aquifers.”<sup>1</sup> Hereby, we thank you-for pointing out the relationship between this water crisis and the current development model as the very essential condition for this global crisis.

‘Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right necessary condition for the exercise of many other human rights’ These were the words that Pope Francis used in 2015. and now more than ever, these words are impressively resonating in today's reality of those lives that are suffering from the short and long-term consequences of the recent global pandemic.

For this reason, it becomes increasingly evident that the relationship between poverty and access to water and sanitation is calling for urgent attention. This issue must not remain untackled. Water is a universal common good, fundamental to the health and life of all people. As we truly believe that no one should be left behind, governments owe real sustainable actions to the people and the planet all over the world!

Mr. Arrojo-Agudo, APG23 is looking forward to working together on the important themes you have highlighted in your report and will continue engaging in further discussions.

Thank you!

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<sup>1</sup> <https://washdata.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/unicef-who-2021-affordability-of-wash-services-full.pdf> (p.9)

