



**49th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 28 February – 1 April 2022**

**Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights**

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

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

APG23 thanks the Independent Expert for the comprehensive report and the long-term vision enshrined in this preliminary workplan of her mandate. In particular, we welcome the effort of "putting human rights law and policy at the heart of development and fiscal law, policy and systems" put forward in the report.

As a civil society organization operating on the ground, during the last decades we have witnessed in many areas of the world, mostly in the more vulnerable, the adverse effects at national and community level of international financial, fiscal and monetary policies such as austerity measures, structural adjustment plans, tax dumping among others.

The way international financial obligations are managed is key to ensure adequate fiscal space and resources, a necessary precondition to fulfil human rights and pursue locally owned development processes. We appreciate the commitment of the Independent Expert to explore such mechanisms and to go beyond the traditional areas of financing for development and human rights, and we encourage her to feed the related discussions at the UN and in other global fora with human rights-sensitive perspectives and possible solutions.

That is even more crucial while the world is trying to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic, with shrinking fiscal revenue and a worrying resurgence of the external debt burden for too many fragile countries, already exhausted by the health and social effects of this crises.

We would like the Independent Expert to share her opinion on the potential impact of a UN convention on the Right to Development, given her recognition of the need to take positive measures at State level and through international cooperation towards the "progressive fiscal realization of all human rights".

Thank you!