



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

Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right to food

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

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Mr President,

APG23 thanks the Special Rapporteur on the right to food for his report “Seeds, rights to life and farmers’ rights.”¹

We reaffirm that the concept of productivity should be coupled with the protection of health and human integral development, real ecological sustainability, and respect for biodiversity.

We would like to reiterate that indigenous peoples and communities and human rights defenders are among the most affected by business-related abuses and violations, particularly in contexts dominated by extractive or land-intensive industries, whose operations are often highly impactful on environment and human rights. By protecting their own lands and territories by irresponsible and disrespectful exploitation of natural resources, they are the last custodians of endangered ecosystems and cultures, so becoming the main target of abuses, violence and also deadly attacks.

Our concern is the impact of the prevailing economic approach that puts profit among everything else, to the extent of endangering fundamental human rights.

As stated by Pope Francis: "We need to correct models of growth incapable of guaranteeing respect for the environment, openness to life, concern for the family, social equality, the dignity of workers and the rights of future generations. Sadly, few have heard the appeal to acknowledge the gravity of the problems and, even more, to set in place a new economic model, the fruit of a culture of communion based on fraternity and equality".²

We would like the special Rapporteur to share his opinion on the possible beneficial impact of the convention on the Right to Development and of a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations, both under discussion at the UN, on the world’s seeds and food systems in relation to human rights obligations.

Thank you!

¹ A/HRC/49/43

² https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/letters/2019/documents/papa-francesco_20190501_giovani-imprenditori.html