

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

Item 2: General Debate with the High Commissioner on Human Rights

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

Co-signing NGOs¹:

1. *Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII*
2. *Association Points-Cœur*
3. *AVSI Foundation*
4. *Baptist World Alliance (BWA)*
5. *Center for Global Nonkilling*
6. *Confédération Internationale Société de Saint Vincent de Paul*
7. *Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI)*
8. *Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers)*
9. *Dominican Leadership Conference*
10. *Edmund Rice International*
11. *Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture*
12. *ICMICA-MIIC Pax Romana*
13. *International Catholic Child Bureau (BICE)*
14. *International fellowship of Reconciliation - IFOR*
15. *International Volunteerism Organization for Women Education and Development (VIDES International)*
16. *Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA)*
17. *MIAMSI*
18. *Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples*
19. *New Humanity*

“Appeal for Peace in Ukraine”

Check against delivery

Madam High Commissioner,

I speak on behalf of 20 NGOs. We express our extreme dismay by the war that is currently unfolding in Ukraine. We would like to echo your appeal² delivered on 24 February that urges an immediate halt to the Russian Federation’s military action; it is an action that clearly violates international law and puts countless civilian lives at risk.

As members of civil society, we bring into this room the voice of the defenceless victims of conflicts, whose human rights are being violated including their human right to peace.

¹NGOs not accredited to ECOSOC supporting this statement: 1. Japan Committee for the Right to Peace

² <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=28153&LangID=E>

In 2016, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Right to Peace³ by vote. It affirms that “Everyone has the right to enjoy peace such that all human rights are promoted and protected and development is fully realized.” We appeal the Russian Federation that supported and voted in favour of this declaration, to be coherent with its vote.

We believe that a process of disarmament and demilitarisation is needed in order to prevent wars and guarantee peace. All countries involved in the security architecture of Europe must commit to the reduction of strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons stored in the continent. Moreover, the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons should be signed and implemented by all States.

We appeal the UN, the international community, all parties to strive for an end to the fighting in Ukraine by enforcing international law and finding a solution to the conflict based on the principle of peaceful settlement of disputes⁴.

“War is a “scourge”... It is an adventure without return that compromises humanity's present and threatens its future... War is always a defeat for humanity”⁵.
No one has the right to make a war, yet we all have the duty to build peace.

Thank You!

³ A/RES/71/189

³ Charter of the United Nations, articles 2.3

⁵ Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, paragraph 497