



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

Item 5: General debate on human rights bodies and mechanisms

Report of the 2021 Social Forum

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

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Mr. President,

APG23 welcomes the report of the 2021 Social Forum¹.

As active participants in the Social Forum sessions, we strongly restate its importance and the great contribution it provides to push for an inclusive approach to international solidarity and promote a side-by-side implementation of the Right to Development.

Thanks to our worldwide experience, as APG23 we have been able to observe the growing human rights abuses and the structural injustice across people and communities reflecting the lack of equity and solidarity at the international level.

The current COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated inequalities among countries and fuelled the unfair distribution of goods such as vaccines and medical equipment. As emphasised during the Social Forum, we must act in cooperation and consider vaccines as global public goods to prevent viruses from harming entire social and health systems worldwide. Ensuring equitable access to such public goods and resources is the only way to save ourselves and our planet. Trade and intellectual property must not hinder solidarity across nations, and cannot bend under the self-interest of single nations.

APG23 is convinced that the COVID-19 pandemic's detrimental consequences are not irreversible if we adopt prompt and swift action to the fostering of international cooperation yet without conditions. We must ensure vaccines equity and overcome vaccines nationalism, alongside ending unilateral coercive measures. We must work together to formulate policies and programmes based on a real legally based implementation of the right to development, providing ground for a greater interrelatedness of the dimensions of people, health and security. As such, the right to development and the principle of international solidarity are key to moving beyond apparent equality and realise inclusive and effective equity!

Thank you!

¹ A/HRC/49/79