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Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

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Mr. President,

APG23 thanks the Special Rapporteur for the report of his visit to Lebanon and for the effort to point out the variety of challenges and threats to the human rights of peoples, groups and communities in the Lebanese society, especially those affected at different levels by marginalization and impoverishment processes.

As a civil society organization engaged in the promotion of human rights of refugees and asylum-seekers fleeing from war, APG23 is committed to giving voice to Syrian refugees' humanitarian needs and to their appeal for peace, supporting nonviolent solutions to the conflict and the building up of the conditions for a safe return in their homeland.

We, therefore, want to highlight the focus devoted in the report to the situation of Syrian refugees in Lebanon, shaped by factors such as: vulnerable housing conditions in the camps and informal settlements, major obstacles in the access to basic services as health and education, heavy restrictions in obtaining legal residency and work permits that push refugees in the informal sector without any labour or social protections.

The substantial lack of integration policies exacerbates this precariousness, leading to the discrimination of Syrian refugees' families and preventing their human rights from being fulfilled.

The testimonies we have collected echo the picture portrayed in the report of these harsh living conditions, further deteriorated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and of the economic and financial crises.

Mr. Special Rapporteur, which priority policy action would you suggest to be adopted - at national and international level - to enhance the living conditions and basic human rights of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon and to reverse the marginalization process overwhelming their lives?

Thank You!