



**50th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council (13 June – 8 July 2022)**

**ITEM 3: ID with the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members**

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

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Mr. President,

APG23 thanks the Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members for her report to this 50<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Council regular session.

The focus on the right to health for the people affected by Leprosy and the so-called Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) is very important and timely. Sadly, the term “neglected” already represents the paradigm of a defeated approach that allows ignoring diseases impacting over 1 billion people in the whole world.

APG23 agrees that the discussion around underlining social determinants of health should not be restricted to a few issues such as water, sanitation and hygiene. As it is mentioned by the Special Rapporteur, the right to work, the right to education, and social protection are “equally important for preventing diseases and poor health outcomes”.<sup>1</sup>

We would like to add and highlight the importance of the link between development and health, both for the individual and public dimension of health. The fulfilment of the right to health and the right to development is strongly intertwined. Global problems like climate change or the COVID -19 pandemic are examples of how inappropriate is, in such cases, to address health and development separately.

We would like to ask the Special Rapporteur her opinion on the importance of an approach to health, especially in the case of neglected tropical diseases and in particular leprosy, that considers the fulfilment of the right to development as a major contributor to health and wellbeing for all.

Thank You!

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/50/35 par. 27