



51st Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 12 September – 7 October 2022
Biennial panel discussion on the right to development

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

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Mr. President,

One of the principles at the heart of the Declaration on the Right to Development is 'enabling a national and international environment for development', which supports and determines the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. Putting this principle into practice requires a holistic and integrated approach to face global challenges undermining the enjoyment of all human rights, in particular the right to development. Within this approach, the States and international community's duty to cooperate should lead multilateral measures directed to remove the obstacles to development, which mostly lay on the unbalanced global economic and financial architecture.

An essential factor for building an enabling environment for a more sustainable and equitable development is to reorient financing for development towards people-centred and human rights-based transformational processes and reforms. For instance: human rights obligations must be prioritized over financial, fiscal and commercial conditionalities, especially by shaping fairer debt workout mechanisms, global tax rules and world trade provisions; a more accountable, equal and democratic governance should be applied to global economic institutions; public interest and the common good have to direct any development finance initiative or investment; Official Development Assistance should be guided by the principles of meaningful participation and local ownership, avoiding any hidden conditionality and fulfilling the agreed commitments; adequate fiscal space needs to be ensured to fund national human rights enforcement systems also in low and middle income countries.

Distinguished panellists,

One of the objectives of this panel is to lay the foundations for the high-level commemorative event that will take place during the 52nd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Declaration on the right to development.

Do you think that it may be a good proposal, and that time has come to include the Declaration on the right to development into the International Bill of Human Rights?

Thank You!