



52nd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 27 February–4 April 2023

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review Brazil

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

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Mr President,

APG23 commends the constructive participation of Brazil in its fourth Universal Periodic Review. We welcome the improvements in the respect and fulfilment of human rights that took place in the latest years.

APG23's long-lasting presence in Brazil started in 1991, and today we are able to reach more than 1000 beneficiaries in different reception facilities, such as Family Homes, Therapeutic Communities and Daily Centres, in the states of Minas Gerais and Pará.

The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened social problems of the poorest population, which were already dramatic. Unemployment rate and poverty are currently very high and they are constantly increasing. This situation, together with the adverse effects of climate change, heavily impacted on food security of a large sector of the population. All these factors contribute to the progressive erosion of the right to an adequate standard of living of the population. In addition, the economic crisis following the COVID-19 pandemic challenged Brazil's ability to implement water and sanitation policies that were already challenged by climate change.

These interlinked crises also affected the right of education, especially of the youth. Often, boys and girls dropped out of school because they had to devote themselves exceedingly early to domestic or country work or to support their families. In particular, in pandemic time, children who were enrolled in schools but were not able to take part in its activities from home – either due to lack of internet access, worsening poverty or other factors – ended up being denied their right to education.

APG23 recommends the adoption of stronger measures to reduce inequality in the labour market and to stop the increase in prices of basic food products. Moreover, food and nutritional surveillance have to be strengthened. Finally, we suggest the adoption of a strategic agenda for Basic Education to mitigate the serious effects of the pandemic.

Thank you!