



52nd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 27 February–31 March 2023

Item 3: Interactive dialogue on the report of the High Commissioner on ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

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

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Mr. President,

APG23 thanks the High Commissioner for Human rights for the Report on “Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic”.

A human rights approach to access to vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic has been, in many cases, a mere hope. For instance, people, communities, and entire countries have waited, often in vain, for words to become facts regarding the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and technological discoveries. Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, a human rights approach to health could have marked the difference between life and death for many people.

The distinction between promises and facts during the pandemic had and will have an impact not only on issues strictly related to health but on the entire well-being of the populations, with, for instance, possible consequences on the economy of countries that are yet to be fully determined.

This happens when a solidarity-based, action-oriented, and people-centred perspective is not applied, mainly when human rights are words that do not translate into real actions.

APG23 is a strong advocate of the recognition of the right to international solidarity, an instrument that according to us would be crucial to addressing global challenges even to the benefit of the next pandemic.

We would like to ask the High Commissioner for his opinion on the possible recognition of the right of international solidarity and its possible benefit in the field of access to vaccines.

Thank you!