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54th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 11 September –13 October 2023

Item 3: Interactive dialogue with the Expert Mechanism on right to development

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

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Mr. President,

APG23 and the co-signing NGOs welcome the report of the Expert Mechanism and the three thematic studies already completed.

We found the 6th and 7th sessions of the Expert mechanism meeting very interesting and well organized. We appreciated the efforts to build on synergies by inviting other mandate holders. We also appreciated how the Expert mechanism listens to and values the contributions of Civil Society. We look forward to the next thematic studies, such as the study on equal opportunities for women's active and meaningful participation, the one on international development cooperation, the two studies on climate justice and the one on artificial intelligence.

We are glad that the Expert Mechanism recognized the alignment between the right to development and the right to peace, emphasised the responsibility of States to provide an enabling environment for equitable development, including the duty to cooperate to eliminate obstacles to development and recognized the urgent calls for reform of the international financial architecture.

We are at a critical junction for making progress on the implementation of the right to development since the draft international covenant on this right will be forwarded to the General Assembly and two very important Summits are to take place very soon: the SDGs Summit and the Summit for the Future. We do hope that the Expert Mechanism will actively contribute making the voices of the most vulnerable people and countries at last heard in their claim for the right to development to be protected, respected and fulfilled.

Thank you!