



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

Item3: Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

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

*Check against delivery*

Mr. President,

APG23 thanks the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order for the report and for having drawn attention on the issue of youth participation and engagement in international forums.

By recalling the Declaration of the right to development, APG23 wants to highlight the outstanding role that an active, free and meaningful participation could play in ensuring development and in the full realization of all human rights, by equitably meeting developmental and environmental needs of both present and future generations.

Today and tomorrow, world leaders are gathering in New York for the SDG Summit with the aim to face the current derailing of most of the Sustainable Development Goals. Among the commitments needed to revitalize the 2030 Agenda, we see the key role that promoting a broader and more effective people participation should have, especially by engaging those who are excluded by the decision-making processes involving their future. Youth participation in such processes is an essential driver to create a global enabling environment for peace, human rights and sustainable development that is grounded in intergenerational equity and solidarity.

APG23 supports the call of the Independent Expert to encourage a culture of voluntarism and to promote youth engagement in civic space. In this regard, along with other civil society organizations, we involve youth in our Ministry of Peace' proposal, an implementation tool for the right to peace, by promoting their participation in nonviolent peace corps and as human rights defenders. This means to give youth the opportunity to be agents of positive change in shaping peaceful, sustainable and inclusive societies.

Thank you!