



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

Item3: Interactive dialogue on the Report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on the "Vision of the OHCHR for reinforcing its work in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the 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 the report on the vision of the OHCHR for reinforcing its work in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

While approaching the 75° anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the future of our societies is undermined by challenges and multiple crises that reveal how far we are from fulfilling the aspirations enshrined in the Declaration. To advance in that direction, the comprehensive approach to economic, social and cultural rights proposed in the report is key and needs to be further enhanced, along with the crucial role of the OHCHR in promoting it.

Fully recognizing the critical value of economic, social and cultural rights is essential to forge human rights-based solutions to ensure a peaceful, fair and sustainable future for humankind. Therefore, we join the High Commissioner in the call to end the unhelpful and artificial divide between economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights, as well as to reverse the unacceptable underinvestment in economic, social and cultural rights. On the eve of the SDG Summit next week, such deficit sounds even more worrying in light of the huge financing gaps undermining the 2030 Agenda, whose full achievement is strictly related to ensuring economic, social and cultural rights.

The progressive realization of all human rights requires adequate financial and non-financial resources and a transformative approach to remove the structural obstacles to their mobilization, by addressing systemic issues such as fiscal policies, trade, debt, economic and financial architecture, as well as accountability of business enterprises. Especially, we want to highlight the need to establish different priorities in budget allocation: first of all, by reducing military expenditures to release resources for increasing social spending and enhancing a human rights economy.

Thank you!