



SOCIAL FORUM, 2 - 3 November 2023

“THE CONTRIBUTION OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (STI) TO THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN THE CONTEXT OF POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY”

The Contribution of STI to the Promotion of Human Rights in the Context of the Post-Pandemic Recovery

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

Check against delivery

Mr Chair,

APG23 thanks the panellists for the insightful contributions.

Once more, today's discussions are showing us the harsh and multiplied impact of the global imbalances and inequalities especially hitting the most vulnerable and marginalized peoples and countries, the same that have to carry a disproportionate burden derived from the socio-economic, health and ecological crises. Too often, the most exposed to the effects of such human-induced crises are among those excluded from the choices and decisions generating inequities and disparities that impact their life and their future.

In this context, enhancing human rights requires a transformational shift of the decision-making processes that exclude entire communities and peoples - as well as future generations - from the benefits of unbalanced and unsustainable development model. We urgently need a more transparent and democratic governance in global institutions and systemic domains as health, intellectual property, trade, debt, economic and financial architecture, as well as a greater accountability of business enterprises.

As already underlined during this panel, science and technology are ever more key factors in such domains: we have the moral imperative of putting them at the service of peace and human rights, avoiding they become drivers of exclusion, exploitation, profit over people - or apartheid, as we have seen in case of COVID vaccines. In this regard, in our discussion, we cannot decouple finance, corporate power and technology issues: such relation and its governance is critical in defining the way we address social, economic and environmental challenges and shape our future.

I would like to ask to our distinguished panellists: in which way private sector and transnational corporations may affect and/or be engaged in the options and solutions you are exploring to protect common goods and ensure human rights in the post-pandemic recovery? And how could this issue be more effectively and better ruled within the UN framework?

Thank you!