



SOCIAL FORUM
11 – 12 October 2021
Room XVII, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

**“GOOD PRACTICES, SUCCESS STORIES, LESSONS LEARNED AND
CHALLENGES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC,
WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND
SOLIDARITY, AND FROM A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE”**

Interactive Dialogue: Overcoming global challenges towards recovering better

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

Madame President,

APG23 welcomes the high value of this discussion thanking the panellists for their considerations.

We are deeply concerned for the imperilling landscape that vulnerable people and fragile countries have to face, not only because of the COVID-19 pandemic but even for the weakness of the global responses so far adopted, unable to balance the asymmetrical impact of the crisis and to grant equal access to the recovery assets.

We cannot overcome any of the huge global challenges ahead of us until the international community and the UN Member States concretely agree on and deliver the needed responses, most of them are woefully set aside instead of being pushed forward.

The path to an inclusive, coherent and sustainable recovery has to be outlined by multilateral measures firstly directed to remove the structural obstacles to development, which mostly lay on the global economic and financial architecture and its regulatory system.

A structural transformation, by means of systemic reforms within the UN framework, is needed to remove these obstacles and reverse the ever more unacceptable global inequities, such as: the crippling restriction of the fiscal space of low and middle income countries; the lack of a fair and UN-centred debt relief mechanism; the unjust tax avoidance of multinational enterprises; the absence of universal social protection floors; the democracy and accountability deficits in the global financial institutions; the unbalanced rules of the world trade regime and to access science and technology assets; the hidden conditionalities of development assistance.

Many of the people suffering today will still be in danger when the next crisis will come, unless the commitments of the 2030 Agenda and a truly transformational approach, based on solidarity and international cooperation, will be finally translated in concrete steps as the ones discussed today.

Distinguished panellists, which global systemic reform would you firstly suggest to connect and enhance the policy solutions for an equitable and human rights-based recovery you have explored today?

Thank you!