



SOCIAL FORUM
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“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: COVID-19, the Right to Development and Solidarity Rights

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

The COVID -19 pandemic has disrupted the lives of thousands of persons around the world. While the world stopped and slowed its speed, conflicts and wars did not rest, instead kept exacerbating. Human rights violations and abuses have globally increased and the most marginalized people have been left further behind.

Peace is a concept that involves the full respect of all human rights, the operationalization of the right to development, the respect of fundamental freedom, the promotion of equality, tolerance and dialogue, justice and accountability. The implementation of both, the Right to Peace and the Right to Development, along with the recognition of the right to international solidarity are imperative drivers to the establishment of a fairer world based on brotherhood and social justice. The adoption of a legally binding instrument to operationalizing the right to development, is therefore necessary to hold duty bearers accountable and to realize a "new more humane and responsible social and international order".

Concerning the right to peace, only with the right instruments such as concrete infrastructures, it is possible to promote peace policies, and prevent violence and conflicts.

As Koffi Annan's said: "The aim should be the creation of a sustainable national infrastructure [...] that allows societies and their governments to resolve conflicts internally and with their own [...] resources"¹. As APG23, we urge each State to establish a Ministry of Peace as the best tool to realize the right to peace. This should operate by promoting alternative dispute resolution and reconciliation, encouraging the development of a peace culture and education, working for the good management and coordination of all efforts to implement the right to peace.

We need to act now. There are real people and children, victims of conflicts, who deserve another life and opportunities by means of all our commitment. We all, as people of the world, should lend our hands to each other, and weave the strings of a different humanity in which the culture of peace and dialogue is the very loom of our work.

¹ United Nations,(2006)Progress Report of the UN on the Secretary-General's Report "Prevention of Armed Conflict"(2001),p.16.

