



HRC SOCIAL FORUM 2022 (3-4 November 2022)
Interactive Dialogue on: *Interactive dialogue on “Water for peace and cooperation”*

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

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APG23 thanks the panellists for the insightful and interesting discussion. The topic of water for peace and cooperation is surely highly relevant and urgent at the present time and the choice of dedicating an interactive dialogue to this topic is, indeed, appropriate.

The right to have access to water and sanitation is increasingly threatened by the phenomenon of climate change. In 2022, the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation in his report entitled «*Special thematic report on climate change and the human rights to water and sanitation*»¹, outlined that water scarcity, droughts, and floods, exacerbated by climate change, will increasingly generate conflicts in the future. Many areas of the world will become uninhabitable and force hundreds of millions of people to move and migrate.

Hence, it is a fact that climate change is and will negatively impact water security. The consequent conflicts for the use of water would affect especially the most vulnerable people and groups on the planet, especially in Africa and Asia, for instance, persons living in poverty in rural areas.

For this reason, the right to water and sanitation must be ensured in order to enable the full realisation of another human right, the right to peace. This should be an obligation for the international community and the States, and cannot be just a mere political commitment.

Moreover, APG23 would like to stress and recall another interlinkage: the one between the right to water and the right to development. As underlined many times by relevant human rights mechanisms, the separation between development and human rights is artificial: development itself is and has to be considered a human right. It is evident that for a complete realisation of development, access to water and sanitation must be ensured: in this sense, the Declaration on the Right to Development explicitly mentions the «*inalienable right to full sovereignty over all their natural wealth and resources*», and water is the first and the most important of all the natural resources.

Thank you!

¹ Special thematic report on climate change and the human rights to water and sanitation by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation (January 2022)