12th Session of the Expert Mechanism on right to development, 27-29 October 2025

Item 5 Implementation of the mandate and programme of work : (b) Focused thematic discussions and interactive dialogues (i) How to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the UN Declaration on the Right to Development: reflections and proposals

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

Check against delivery

Mr. Chair,

APG23 will continue advocating for a prompt adoption by the General Assembly of the draft International Covenant on the right to development and once the covenant will be adopted, we would like it to be included in the Bill of Human Rights.

The adoption of the international covenant on RTD is crucial in the advancement of all human rights. The right to development, despite its significance, has not received the attention and recognition it deserves in international law. The Draft International Covenant on the Right to Development aims to precisely address this gap by establishing a comprehensive framework for promoting and protecting this right. The Draft Covenant outlines the obligations of states to create an enabling environment conducive to the realization of the right to development, including measures to eliminate obstacles to development, promote equitable distribution of resources, and ensure meaningful participation of all individuals and communities in decision-making processes. With our world in turmoil where conflicts, inequalities, ODA cuts are on the rise and in light of the pressing global challenges we face today, it is ever more urgent to advance towards the objective of the right to development. In April 2024, APG23 sent a joint letter co-signed by 22 NGOs to the Ambassadors of Member States in New York and is now in the process to collect co-signatories for sending a second join letter in November 2025.

We will lobby with States and mobilize other NGOs in this advocacy.

Thank You!