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

Item 3: General debate

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

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Mr. Chair,

APG23 welcomes the opportunity to engage in this 12th session of the Expert Mechanism and reaffirm its commitment to the realization of the right to development as a universal and inalienable human right. We thank also the Expert Mechanism for its continued work in promoting the right to development and welcome the focus of this session expressed in the programme of work.

We appreciated all the previous thematic studies of the Expert Mechanism and commend the efforts to develop further studies, particularly on the role of artificial intelligence, the climate finance and climate justice. These areas reflect the evolving landscape of development and the urgent need to ensure that development processes are just, accountable, and equitable.

2026 will mark the anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Right to Development, but the gap between aspiration and implementation remains stark. Global inequalities are widening, conflicts are arising, the climate crisis is accelerating, and many communities remain excluded from meaningful participation in development processes. Development must not be seen solely through economic growth, but through the lens of justice, equity, and sustainability.

The implementation of the Right to Development remains vital and urgent in today's world for addressing global inequalities and injustices and ensuring that development is equitable, sustainable, and people-centred.

Technological advances also underscore the RTD's importance. While innovation offers great potential for development, it also risks deepening divides between those with access to digital tools and those without. The RTD calls for equitable access to technology and capacity-building to ensure that all countries can participate in the digital age. As global challenges become more interconnected, reaffirming the RTD is essential for creating a just and fair international order.

The RTD highlights the responsibility of both national governments and the international community to create an enabling environment where all countries can thrive. In this context, it demands reform of the global economic and financial systems to be more inclusive and equitable. It calls for solidarity and global cooperation, emphasizing that development should be universal and not a privilege for a few.

In this regard, we emphasize the urgent need for the adoption of the draft international covenant on the right to development still under scrutiny at the General Assembly in New York, which can be a very relevant tool to hold States and corporations accountable.

In addition, we call on the Expert Mechanism to continue its engagement with civil society, especially grassroots movements, whose voices are often excluded.

We are ready to engage in the discussion of the items of this session, bringing our contribution as a component of civil society.

Thank You!