



55th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 26 February – 5 April 2024 Item 2: General Debate:

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

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Mr President,

Our world is in turmoil. Now days, the highest number of conflicts has been reached since 1945 when the peoples of the United Nations decided to preserve the future generations from the scourge of war. But where are we now?

Thousands of innocent victims have been killed in the current conflicts and we are closer today to a nuclear confrontation than at any time since the end of the Cold War.

The Secretary General called for a new agenda for peace and the zero draft for the Pact of the Future seems to take on this call. We do hope that urgent actions will be taken consequently!

We need a robust reform of the Security Council that, as it is now, paralyses the United Nations peace initiatives and we need the creation of “appropriate sustainable measures” for the implementation of the right to peace as Art. 3 of the 2016 Declaration on the Right to Peace² foresees.

The APG23 founder, Fr Oreste Benzi, used to say: “Men have always, throughout the centuries, organized wars, it is time to start organising peace”.

Thus, APG23 and the 15 co-signatory NGOs encourage each State to establish a sustainable national infrastructure for peace, namely a Ministry of Peace, that aims to the respect, protection and promotion of human rights, to promote peaceful settlement of disputes within States, to peace culture and education, and to violence and conflict prevention.

Finally, we suggest creating a mandate-holder (Special Rapporteur) on the right to peace. We also ask OHCHR to promote and mainstream the right to peace as well as to give more visibility in its webpage. Thank you!

¹ The Jesuit Refugees Service is waiting for the renewal of the ECOSOC Status

² A/RES/71/189