**24th Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Right to Development**

**15-19 May 2023, Palais des Nations, Geneva**

**Joint oral statement delivered by Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23) on behalf of the Working Group of Catholic Inspired NGOs on the Right to Development[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Item 4.1: General statements**

Mr Chairman, Excellences, Distinguished Delegates,

I intervene on behalf of the Working Group of the Forum of Catholic-Inspired NGOs (CINGO) on the Right to Developmentcomposed of 12 Catholic Inspired Organisations and coordinated by APG23.

We wish to congratulate you, Ambassador Zamir Akram, for your re-election as the Chairperson Rapporteur. We also welcome the participation of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development and the Chair of the Expert mechanism.

We are pleased to participate in this 24th session of the Open-Ended Working Group and look forward to the finalisation of the draft convention on the Right to Development.

The elaboration of a draft convention is a momentous step in the recognition of the right to development as a human right and for its implementation, not only because of its binding nature, if adopted, but also because it contains concrete, detailed and implementable norms. While it maintains to a certain extent the contents of the Declaration, the draft also addresses some of its gaps and limitations. A clear example is the step forward that the draft Convention takes to address environmental concerns by adopting sustainable development as one of the guiding principles of the right to development.

In a world in turmoil, where wars, conflicts, multiple crises and inequalities prevail, it is ever more urgent to advance towards the objective of the right to development, which is the self-determination and sovereignty of all peoples allowing them to choose their own model of development, in a spirit of equality and mutual respect.

A convention on the right to development has never been more relevant than it is today, particularly in the face of the increasing popular backlash against the asymmetric and inequitable impacts of global governance in trade, investment, finance and development.

We hope that this session of the Working group will be fruitful and productive with a constructive dialogue among participants. We would like to invite the Member States, while discussing the second revised text of the draft convention, not to forget that behind the Right to Development, there are people in need, and they have been waiting for a long time for your decisions.

Thank you!

1. The NGOs belonging to the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Forum of Catholic-Inspired NGOs (CINGO) are as follows: Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23), Association Points-Cœur, AVSI, Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers), International Institute of Mary Our Help of the Salesians Sisters of Don Bosco (IIMA), International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL), OIEC (International Office of Catholic Education), MIAMSI, New Humanity, Teresian Association, and VIDES International (International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education, Development) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)