**24th Session of the Intergovernmental 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 on behalf of the Working Group of Catholic Inspired NGOs on the Right to Development[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Item 5: Adoption of conclusions and recommendations**

Thank you, Mr Chair-Rapporteur,

As usual, I am also speaking on behalf of the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Forum of Catholic-Inspired NGOs (CINGO), and I kindly ask the Secretariat to reflect this in the final text of the report.

We congratulate Ambassador Zamir Akram for the way he chaired this 24th session of the Working Group, an excellent way, and thank the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development and the Expert mechanism for their participation.

We are also very grateful to the Drafting committee and its Chair, Prof Mihir Kanade, for the work done in preparing the draft convention on the right to development.

We do hope that the adoption of such a legally binding instrument by the General Assembly will be realised very soon for the sake of every person and peoples of the world, especially the most vulnerable. We also hope that such an instrument will be named the “International Covenant on the Right to Development”!

Now, reading the conclusions of this Working Group, over which we are glad a consensus was reached, it also draws very clearly that the majority of States are keen to adopt a convention on the Right to Development, while some others are still opposing the idea or reluctant of the text that was proposed. As usual, polarisation is unfortunately present.

We realise, therefore, that there is a need to build bridges, and these bridges most probably can be built only if States put at the core of their concerns, the people of the world. In the current scenario, with multiple crises, and more will probably come in the future, we think that if we put the concern of the people of the world at the centre, then we can realise and overcome division, and walk towards unity. Our world needs the unity of all States, as a human family.

Our plea is for this unity to happen, and as NGOs and civil society attending the whole process here at the UN, we will surely remain seized on this matter crucial for the people of the world.

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), MIAMSI, New Humanity, Teresian Association, and VIDES International (International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education, Development) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)