**23rd Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Right to Development**

**16-21 May 2022, 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 also 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 Ambassador Zamir Akram for his re-election as the Chairperson Rapporteur. We also welcome the participation of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development, Mr. Saad Alfarargi, and the Chair of the Expert mechanism Mr. Mihir Kanade.

We are very pleased to participate in this 23rd session of the Open-Ended Working Group and look forward to a fruitful conclusion on the discussion related to the draft convention on the right to development.

Thirty-six years have passed since the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development and we do hope that this current year will mark the delivery of a cohesive and comprehensive Convention on this undeniably essential right. The finalization of the convention will constitute a great step in making the implementation of the right to development a reality for everyone.

We’re living in unprecedented times. The catastrophic and existential risks for humanity are serious and multifaceted. The current conflict in Ukraine that has created so much suffering in the populations, the many other conflicts still present in other parts of the world, the COVID-19 pandemic that is not yet over, the climate change threat, the collapse of multilateralism, the increase of inequities just to name a few are a call to reaffirm the vision of the United Nations Charter and the international Bill of Human Rights with facts and not merely words.

We invite all States to put at the centre of their discussion in this session the people of the world, especially the most vulnerable, and the concern for the realization of their integral development which is long over dew; leaving no one behind.

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)