**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 4.3.2 – Interaction with experts and consideration of the draft convention and proposals: Preamble**

We appreciate the fact that the preamble has been improved adding a few new paragraphs and restructuring it by moving some paragraphs up and others down. We are glad that the reference to the United Nations Charter has been moved at the beginning of the preamble as we and many others suggested. We also appreciate the replacement of the word “Recognising” with “Reaffirming” in the third paragraph that makes stronger the reference to the Universal Declaration on Human Rights as well with the reference to other relevant UN documents in the sixth paragraph. We understand the explanation given on the substitution of the wording of the previous draft “Bearing in mind” with “Taking note” in the tenth paragraph concerning the regional instruments. Anyhow, we think that retaining “Bearing in mind\* that is slightly stronger would be better because, in our opinion, it should not constitute a problem for those States that do not fall under these regional instruments.

Among the obstacles to the realization of the right to development mentioned in paragraph 13, we proposed the adding of other obstacles such as the unfair international trading system, unregulated finance, asymmetries of power in global governance and decision-making, unequal access to information and technology, external debts of the developing and least developed countries and unilateral coercive measures. It is a true that, as the commentaries made by the drafting committee underline, this paragraph mentioning the different obstacles should be inclusive and not exhaustive and the word “inter alia” has been included, nevertheless some of our proposed obstacles are really, in our opinion, very relevant root causes for the lack of implementation of the right to development and we would like to insist on taking into consideration the inclusion of at least some of them in this paragraph.

We are very pleased with the new paragraph (16th) that underlines that “development should not be understood simply in terms of economic growth, but also as a means to widening people’s choices to achieve a more satisfactory intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence rooted in the cultural identity and the cultural diversity of peoples”. Especially, we appreciate the introduction of the words “moral” and “spiritual” that refer to the innermost aspiration of every human being.

Finally, we would like to second the proposal on the title of the Convention to be named International Covenant on the right to development, since we do hope that this convention will be included in the Bill of Human Rights.

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)