



## 61st Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 23 February – 31 March 2026

### Panel discussion on human rights and a culture of peace

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

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Mr. President,

APG23 and the co-signing NGOs welcome the theme of this panel discussion and thanks all the panellists for their valuable inputs.

In our tormented world, where armed conflicts, geopolitical rivalries, ideological polarization, economic war and the erosion of multilateral cooperation have created an atmosphere of chronic instability, promoting a culture of peace is no longer an idealistic aspiration but an urgent moral and political necessity.

A culture of peace encompasses values, attitudes, and behaviours that reject violence and seek to address conflicts through dialogue and cooperation. It is rooted in respect for human rights, social inclusion, gender equality, sustainable development, and international solidarity. A culture of peace requires a commitment to justice. It also demands addressing structural violence, such as poverty, racism, and environmental degradation. It demands the full implementation of the right to development and speedy progress in promoting the right to peace.

Peace must be organized and built with actions that radically change the current paradigm. In this regard, we call on all Member states to fully exercise their role within the United Nations and to commit to ensuring that it increasingly serves as the shared instrument for ensuring peace, development, and human rights, in compliance with the international treaties signed.

We also call for the institution the establishment of national Ministries of Peace that pursue the following objectives:

- promote a culture of dialogue, solidarity, integration, and nonviolence, including through education, instruction, and research
- prevent and reduce social violence by promoting mediation and restorative justice.
- implement disarmament and reduce military spending, encouraging the progressive conversion of the war industry to a civilian one;
- establish unarmed and nonviolent Civil Defense, developing the Civil Peace Corps and the Universal Civil Service.

Finally, we call, in spite of the UN liquidity crisis, to consider the establishment of a Special Rapporteur on the right to peace within the Human Rights Council. Thank You!