

## **THE CONTRIBUTION OF DEVELOPMENT TO THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS**

**Questionnaire filled in by: “Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII” (APG23), NGO in Special Consultative Status**

### **Introduction**

The Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23) is an International Lay Association of Pontifical Right with legal status accredited with Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 2006. The Association is present in 40 countries on five continents. Its members, of different ages and states of life, share life directly with the poor and disadvantaged and are committed to removing the root causes of poverty and exclusion and to being voice of the voiceless through non-violent actions and means.

The Association runs hundreds of family homes all over the world. It runs also emergency shelters, open families, houses of fraternity, cooperatives and day-centres, therapeutic communities for drug users, centres for alcoholics. The Association carries out awareness raising campaigns, micro-credit schemes, services for disabled people, Rom and Sinti, homeless, migrants, elderly, people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, mothers in difficulty and women enslaved into prostitution. Furthermore, the Association has a non violent presence in both fronts in war zones to guarantee the respect of human rights and assist populations displaced by the war, and carries out activities aimed at combating the trafficking of human beings and assisting its victims.

At the United Nations, APG23, through its international office<sup>1</sup> based in Geneva, advocates at the Human Rights Council and other UN mechanisms and bodies on the following issues: 1. Rights of the Child (especially the right to have a family and the right to health); 2. Right to Health and Access to Treatment; 3. International Solidarity and Human Rights 4. Implementation of the Right to Development; 5. Protection of the family; 6. Right to Peace; 7. Migration; 8. Human trafficking; 9. Monitoring SDGs' implementation.

### **Background**

“Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII” (APG23) strongly believes that “if fully implemented, the Declaration on the Right to Development has the potential - together with the respect of other international human rights law instruments - to lead to the achievement of social justice and lasting peace in the world, by aiming for the creation of an enabling international and national environment to overcome structural obstacles and challenges”<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> 36th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 11-29 September 2017 - Item 3, Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the right to development - Joint Oral statement delivered by: Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (APG23). For reference, see also the written statement A/HRC/36/NGO/58.

Consistently with this guiding principle, during the Post-2015 process leading to the adoption of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), jointly with different civil society organizations and networks, APG23 has actively participated to the efforts, both at national and UN levels, to integrate all human rights - including the Right to development - into the 2030 Agenda.

To this end, APG23 has recognized and welcomed the highly commendable work that OHCHR has carried forward throughout the Post-2015 process.

As remarked in its written statement (A/HRC/30/NGO/73) submitted to the Thirtieth session of the Human Rights Council - Agenda item 3 (Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development), APG23 recognizes the significance of the transformative vision of the Declaration on Right to Development at the core of the 2030 Agenda that, if adequately implemented, will provide a new impetus for realizing the Right to Development and will have a significant impact on the enjoyment of human rights by everyone, everywhere. Moreover, in implementing the SDGs, it is necessary to adopt a Right to Development approach that enables the different actors and stakeholders to focus not only on the single outcomes that must result from the national agendas, but also on the process by which those outcomes are achieved.

In the framework of its global commitment to the full implementation of the Right to Development, APG23 is involved in a wide range of social activities and development initiatives at grass-roots level working with people living in extreme poverty in both developing and developed countries.

The best practices set out below are some examples of the initiatives realized by APG23 aimed at contributing to the implementation of the national sustainable development agendas.

The examples provided in this document are mainly linked to specific SDGs and targets and their fulfilment, but have been programmed and deployed within an integrated set of development initiatives based on the guiding principle that “development is successful only if centred on human beings and on human communities and if it ensures active and meaningful participation”.<sup>3</sup> In the implementation of the specific projects and initiatives by APG23 is always crucial the recognition of the **centrality of human beings** and the necessity to ensure the fulfilment of all their human rights, **by addressing the root causes** that prevent their achievement.

## **QUESTION 1 - Examples of best practices such as policies, action plans and any other measures undertaken by our organization in support of the national sustainable development agendas that promote and realize all human rights, including the right to development for all.**

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<sup>3</sup> From the intervention of Dr Maria Mercedes Rossi, Main representative of APG23 to the UN in Geneva, at the Right to Development Anniversary Side Event: “In Search of Dignity and Sustainable Development for All”, 29 February 2016

## 1. ITALY

In October 2017, the Italian Government has finalized and adopted its National Sustainable Development Strategy, whose drafted version was introduced in the Voluntary National Review during the 2017 High-Level Political Forum. Its aim is to define a “strategic framework to lay the foundations for a sustainable future and adjust the undertaken national reform route in a long term perspective”. The road to integrate the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals to the economic, social and environmental national programming is still long and demanding, but the National Strategy is anyway a first step of a multi-level and multi-stakeholder process meant to combine in a single policy framework a set of sectorial policy instruments and national plans. The next needed steps have to realize a stronger and effective convergence to the SDGs targets of the single policies and measures, as well as the establishment of inter-sectorial coordination mechanisms in order to create the synergies between existing and new or revised policies required by the implementation of 2030 Agenda.

By pursuing the holistic vision at the core of the Right to development, APG23 contributes to the implementation of the Italian National Sustainable Development Strategy through different programs, action plans and systemic sets of specific measures unified by a people-centred and human rights based approach.

We hereby introduce some of these national plans put in place by APG23 that contribute to specific priorities and “strategic hubs” of the National Sustainable Development Strategy, by linking to already existing national policies or introducing innovative models that we propose to adopt also at a public policy level.

### **1.1 SOCIAL COOPERATIVES FOR DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**Linked with the implementation of the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 8 – TARGET 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value**

**And the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 10 – TARGET 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status**

APG23 aims to achieve full recognition of the dignity of persons with disabilities, being these physical or mental, and to promote their essential role in a truly equitable and inclusive society. In order to achieve this purpose, since its foundation in 1968 APG23 has pioneered new ways persons with disabilities can be included in society, recognized by public institutions and respected in the fulfilment of their human rights. One of the most innovative and large-scale experiences realized by APG23 is the network of social cooperatives gathered in the “Condividere” (Sharing) Consortium, aiming at integrating disadvantaged and disabled people into society and employment.

APG23 social cooperatives are based on a people-centred approach and on the primacy of cooperation, solidarity and equity principles (compared to self-interest and profit ones) both in the social as well as in the economic sphere.

The social cooperatives gathered in the “Condividere” Consortium, through the action of 979 operators (175 volunteers and 804 paid staff; 451 of them are also members of the cooperatives) in 82 centres located in 10 (out of 20) Italian regions, provide welfare services to 949 disadvantaged and persons with disabilities and currently regularly employ 135 persons with disabilities or disadvantaged.

In some of these centres the social cooperatives promoted by APG23 provide welfare services and educational activities for the social inclusion of disadvantaged and persons with disabilities; in others they run economic activities (as gardening, mechanical assembly, public spaces maintenance, handicraft, agriculture) with an organizational model that allow the persons with disabilities to be empowered and employed despite of their disability status, being able to operate in a market environment and realize economic earnings that are reinvested in the same social cooperatives.

The Consortium has been created to coordinate and support the action of the different APG23 social cooperatives, to integrate their development strategies, to forge new partnerships at local and national level and to promote the spreading of the innovative social and economic model they propose and realize.

In promoting the social and employment inclusion of disadvantaged people (as homeless, former drug-users or ex-prisoners) and persons with disabilities, APG23 social cooperatives combine the traditional cooperative approach with the “direct sharing” practice. Based on it, the entire organizational and productive structure is defined and oriented by the specific individual abilities, qualities and needs of any people involved, starting from the most vulnerable and fragile. The purpose of ensuring a decent work also for the more marginalized by the economic system, as persons with disabilities are, is therefore achieved through the full recognition of the dignity of every single person.

The network of APG23 social cooperatives is active since the 1990s, when the first specific legal framework (law n. 381/1991) was adopted in Italy allowing the establishing of non-profit entities in order to promote and realize social and employment inclusion.

With their own specific identity and approach, both at national and local level, APG23 social cooperatives have contributed to the implementation of different measures deriving from this policy framework and its evolution. Furthermore, this contribution is already aligned with some of the main instruments (such as the National Operating Plan for Inclusion) and strategic outcomes (as the reduction of unemployment for the most vulnerable people) set out in the recently adopted National Sustainable Development Strategy to achieve one of the three key options (named “Fighting poverty and social exclusion”) within one of its five strategic areas (named “People”).

## **1.2 ANTI-TRAFFICKING PROGRAMME FOR SEXUALLY EXPLOITED WOMEN**

**Linked with the implementation of the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5 - TARGET 5.2:  
Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres,  
including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation**

APG23 is committed to the full access to and enjoyment of all human rights by all, and therefore cannot consider acceptable and tolerable the existence of any form of slavery that limit or deny the freedom and the dignity of human beings. Human trafficking and sexual exploitation of women forced into prostitution is a dramatically widespread form of modern slavery that APG23 has begun to oppose and fight since the 1990s. In many cases, the victims of this illegal trade are fragile and vulnerable young women or adolescents coming from contexts of poverty and marginalization, often swindled while searching better life conditions. Following the first public denounces and first actions to rescue and recover the women victims of this phenomenon, APG23 has set up the Anti-trafficking programme.

Such programme operates with the aims of rescuing the young women victims of trafficking and sexual exploitation, reduce their number and promote their recovery and social inclusion. So far, within this programme more than 7.000 women have been rescued. The main actions realized within this programme are:

- Street Units: contact groups that meet women forced into street prostitution, in order to try to establish a trust-based relationship and then to propose them solutions to be rescued from their current situation of exploitation. More than 150 volunteers are engaged in 24 Street Units in 12 different regions.
- Social protection and recovery programme: the rescued women are firstly hosted in protected shelters and, as long term housing solutions, in family-homes run by APG23, where they could recover their dignity and feel cared for and accepted as human beings. Throughout this recovery process, different services are provided to facilitate their social inclusion, to promote their empowerment and to build a path for a new safe and autonomous life; such services are in terms of legal assistance, psychological support, health care, language and vocational courses and job placement. When requested and feasible, the program facilitates the safe return to the victims' country of origin.
- Sensitization events and activities finalized to promote public awareness and behavioural changes in order to discourage and deflate the demand from clients.
- Advocacy for the adoption of legal instruments that can eradicate the human trafficking that is behind prostitution and the international criminal system related to it by tackling its roots, firstly by hitting the demand and punishing the clients.

The programme's activities are realized through different partnerships established with the Ministries of the Interior and of Welfare, Prefectures, Police, Local administrative authorities at regional and city level, local health authorities, other associations and civil society organizations.

Most of the collaboration and partnership with the Government agencies and local authorities are framed in the specific national policies and plans as the National Plan against Trafficking and Human

Beings Exploitation. APG23 program's results and actions contribute to the implementation of these plans.

The contribution that APG23 ensures to the achievement of the SDG 5 at national level is also aligned with the National Sustainable Development Strategy, being the National Plan against Trafficking and Human Beings Exploitation integrated in the set of the implementing measures. In particular, such National Plan has been included among the main instruments of one of the strategic outcomes (To prevent violence against women and children and to ensure adequate assistance to victims) of the first key option (To promote a nonviolent and inclusive society) within the strategic area named "Peace".

### **1.3 PILOT PROGRAMME OF HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS FOR REFUGEES ESCAPING FROM WAR AFFLICTED AREAS**

**Linked with the implementation of the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 10 – TARGET 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies**

Global issues as migration, human mobility and the eradication of conflicts are crosscutting to the whole 2030 Agenda. APG23 is committed to the realization of actions and programs at national and global level to promote the protection and respect of human rights of each migrant and to recognize and facilitate the migrants' role as development enablers.

APG23 is likewise engaged in programmes and initiatives that aim to address the root causes of forced migration, first of all, the armed conflicts. In this regard, APG23 has a Civil Peace Corps named "Operazione Colomba" that operates through nonviolent means in conflict areas to protect the victims of violence and to promote reconciliation and nonviolent solutions.

"Operazione Colomba" volunteers are also engaged in the Northern Lebanon refugee camps, by living with the refugee families escaped from the Syrian war and assisting them in the daily struggle for the recognition of their rights as refugees and for the building of peaceful solutions allowing a safe returning to their country. Because of the volunteers' rooted presence and their close knowledge of the refugee population of many Northern Lebanon camps, APG23 has been involved as partner in the pilot programme of "Humanitarian Corridors" carried out by the organization "Community of Sant'Egidio", in collaboration with the Federation of Evangelical Churches and the Waldensian and Methodist Churches.

Humanitarian Corridors facilitate the international resettlement of the most vulnerable refugee families escaping from the war in Syria (such as families with children, elderly people, sick people, persons with disabilities as well as victims of persecution, torture and violence). The aim is to avoid them embarking on irregular and unsafe journeys on boats across the Mediterranean Sea and to prevent their exploitation by human traffickers. The Humanitarian Corridors' protocols are a safe and regular solution for all, also because visa-issuing procedures require all the necessary checks by Italian authorities. Once in Italy (the resettlement destination) the Syrian refugees are involved in

social protection and inclusion programmes implemented by a network of local authorities and organizations as APG23 itself, where they can benefit of a safe and regular housing, receive Italian language courses, enrol their children to school and be included in job placement initiatives.

The Italian Government as well as other European Governments and international agencies because of the establishing of a safe and regular migration channel for 1.000 refugees from Syrian war between February 2016 and August 2017 have recognized this pilot programme of “Humanitarian Corridors” between Italy and Lebanon as a best practice.

The National Sustainable Development Strategy already states, within the strategic area named “Peace”, the need to realize policies finalized to the welcoming and integration of migrants and asylum seekers with a particular attention to children and vulnerable people. In this regard, APG23 wishes that the pilot programme of Humanitarian Corridors may be adopted as an implementing measure in the National Sustainable Development Strategy, allowing the national (and European) migration policies to make a step ahead towards the effective fulfilment of migrants’ and refugees’ human rights and the full implementation of the SDG 10.

## **2. ZAMBIA**

### **RAINBOW PROJECT–NUTRITION PROGRAMME TO FIGHT AGAINST CHILD MALNUTRITION**

**Linked with the implementation of the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 2 - TARGET 2.1: By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round**

**- TARGET 2.2: By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons**

Among the different development programs implemented by APG23 in Zambia, one of the most relevant to be considered as best practice in pursuing the fulfilment of the SDGs at national level is the **Rainbow Project**, a large scale **model of care for orphans and vulnerable children** operating since 1998 in Ndola and Kitwe Districts.

The spirit of the Rainbow Project is to keep the vulnerable children in related or non-related families, mobilizing the community and networking with the different organizations that are already operating on the field.

The model acts as a community-based project, coordinating with different local community-based organizations in Zambia with the aim of providing solutions together to the different situations faced by vulnerable children and AIDS orphans in daily life. The model aims to preserve the local culture, and return to people, especially women, the opportunity to have a prominent role in their own development.

Most of the families caring for vulnerable children need to be supported in terms of food, education, and health care, but the real challenge is to avoid the "dependence syndrome". For this reason, the Rainbow project has developed an **agricultural micro credit scheme** using the "**Twin-Track approach**", which aims to find a balance between short term needs and long term self-sustainability.

The Rainbow Project supports different local organizations for a range of programmes such as: educational support, shelter for street kids, medical assistance, microfinance programs as well as the nutrition program which aims to fight against malnutrition hereby described.

Rainbow Nutrition Program is present in 11 sites around the city of Ndola collaborating with 10 small non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs). The different NGOs/CBOs are included in a networking system and the leaders of the different organizations (operators) meet regularly at Rainbow Office to discuss interventions and challenges regarding malnutrition.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING PROGRAM (SFP)**

The main component of Rainbow Nutrition Program is the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP). The SFPs are run by operators from local organizations assisted by community volunteers of the same CBOs/NGOs, and operate in network with the local clinics.

The activities for SFPs take place once a week. All the children referred from local clinics, hospitals, weighing points or from communities are admitted into the program if they meet specific criteria on admission. The following activities are conducted in the SFPs:

anthropometric measurement and recording, cooking demonstrations, health talks, meals together, distribution of food supplements and home visitations. (For further detailed information please refer to footnote number four).

Other components of Rainbow Nutrition Program are:

#### **OUTPATIENT THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMMES (OTP)**

In 2008 the Rainbow Project started the first OTP in the Ndola District. OTP started in 6 sites, each run by a doctor from the Rainbow Project and a nurse from DHMT. This liaison demonstrated the importance and viability of the networking between NGO and Government. After several orientations and intensive training **the Rainbow Project handed the OTPs over to the local District Public Health Authority** in 2011.

#### **CONTAINER GARDENING PROGRAMS**

Since 2011 to 2015 container gardening programs were put in place for guardians accompanying children to SFPs. The aim was to improve the family diet through the own production of local vegetables that helps to meet nutritional needs. The programme was run by the Rainbow Project and was endorsed by local authorities.

#### **CAPACITY BUILDING**

At district level throughout the years Rainbow has sponsored workshops and trainings for both nurses and doctors on the integrated management of moderate and severe malnutrition, HIV and nutrition, both in the OTP setting and in the hospital. At community level similar training has been conducted both with the operators of the Project itself and with the community health workers from different local clinics (e.g. IYCF training, HIV and Nutrition course). Several radio programmes on nutrition issues and horticulture have also been aired to sensitize civil society and in this way to bring nutrition

education closer to household level. The majority of the programmes were run with experts from local authorities.

The programme's outcomes are therefore particularly relevant in order to reduce malnutrition levels and prevent new cases in two of the more populated urban areas of the country. Likewise, it is particularly significant its effort to promote and strengthen initiatives that enhance participation and local ownership of the different community-based responses generated within the programme.

People participation is a key issue for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Rainbow Project in Zambia, as the other APG23 programmes, applied this principle since its beginning in 1998 by promoting development processes based on local communities inclusion, as well as their direct involvement in designing and realizing the initiatives they would directly benefit.

While operating at grass-roots level, the Rainbow Project strictly cooperated all along with the national and local authorities willing to address the problems of vulnerable children and families through an operational network of local civil society and community-based organizations.

Rainbow Nutrition Programme's outcomes therefore contribute to the sectorial objectives stated in the existing Zambian Government Food security and Nutrition policies and plans, as the National Food and Nutrition Strategic Plan 2011-2015.

Zambian Government has recently formulated an updated National Development Plan (the 7<sup>th</sup>: 2017-2021), whose exercise had also the aim to build an integrated development approach departing from the sectorial-based planning of prior plans in order to "create an environment for the domestication of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"<sup>4</sup>. In this framework of the Zambian Government initiatives aimed at realizing the national implementation of the SDGs, APG23 Rainbow Nutrition Programme is aligned with the proposed actions shaped within one of the plan's strategic areas, Enhancing Human Development, more specifically with the strategies to enhance food security and nutrition.

### 3) BANGLADESH

#### **PROJECT FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF RIGHT TO EDUCATION FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

**Linked with the implementation of the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 4 - TARGET 4.1: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes**

**- TARGET 4.2: By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education**

APG23 is globally engaged with its different national programs for the enforcement of the right to education for vulnerable children, providing access to school, educational and skills training

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<sup>4</sup> From "7<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan 2017-2021", Republic of Zambia, page 5

activities to more than 5.000 children and young. Particularly relevant are the programmes carried forward in Italy, Zambia, Tanzania and Bangladesh.

Focussing hereby on the programme realized in Bangladesh, such programme is targeted to ensure the access to education opportunities to categories otherwise excluded.

The main programme activities run by APG23 in the Khulna district that overall reach more than 700 children and adolescents, are:

- Pre-primary education activities for children from 3 to 6 years old coming from low-income and marginalized families that prepare them for primary education and facilitate working mothers in integrating the families' income.
- Educational programmes specifically targeting children with disabilities to ensure their access to education and overcome the inadequate operational capacity of local public school-system.
- Provision of schooling material, after-school activities and other forms of support to ensure and facilitate the access to primary education to children from low-income and marginalized families.
- Nutritional support through the provision of daily meals in order to facilitate learning and alleviate the economic burden for the low-income families of the children involved in the programme.

By enabling the disabled and vulnerable children to practice their right to education (primary and pre-primary) in contexts where it could not be otherwise effectively pursued, APG23 sustains the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal 4 and particularly the first two targets. The educational programme that APG23 has put in place is primarily focused on children with disabilities or needing pre-primary care that are still not effectively reached by the on-going implementation of the national policies and plans (as the National Education Policy 2010). The programme means to ensure a universal and free education for all children regardless of their social, economic, ethnic, religious or disability status.

Bangladesh is engaged in an effort to align these already existing sectorial policies to the Sustainable Development Goals. While formulating the updated version of its own development agenda, gathered in the Seventh Five Year Plan (2016-2020), Bangladesh has indeed begun a process aimed at integrating the 2030 Agenda in it, at strengthening the coherence between the SDGs and the priority areas of the national plans and at ensuring their effective implementation.

#### **4) BRAZIL**

### **SENSITIZATION AND PREVENTION PROGRAMME TO FIGHT VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND YOUNG WOMEN AND THEIR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

**Linked with the implementation of the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5 - TARGET 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation**

In the Brazilian State of Minas Gerais APG23 runs two Care Day Centres, “Casa da Juventude” (Youth Home) in Itaobim and “Arcoiris” in Medina, that have developed a prevention programme to fight violence against children and young women and to avoid their sexual exploitation.

These two APG23 Care Day Centres that offer to more than 500 vulnerable children and young people school and nutritional support, educational and skills training activities, sport facilities, psychological tutorship and job placement initiatives, are the only alternative to street life and its risks. In a social environment affected by the proximity of one of the Brazilian human and drug trafficking routes and marked by the street violence of the youth gangs, the APG23 Care Day Centres social activities represent the first and fundamental prevention measure to avoid vulnerable children falling prey to these major risks.

Particular attention is paid to girls and young women, greatly exposed to trafficking in this context.

Apart from creating a safety net for these children able to make them stay away from the dangers of street life, the programme is committed to make children and their whole social environment fully aware of children’s rights and actively involved in their protection.

The main implemented activities aiming at this objective are:

- Training session to make children and youth aware of their rights and the major risks they can face in the daily life: being victims of drug abuse, sexual exploitation, family and gangs’ violence;
- Creation of children and youth discussion groups to stimulate dialogue and debate on different subjects related to their daily life and the actual practice or denial of their rights: drug, violence against children, teen pregnancy, children’s care and protection of fundamental rights;
- Promotion of youth participation processes by allowing children to be the first spokespersons of their rights, establishing networks with similar experiences from other areas of the country and collaborating with public institutions and other civil society organizations.

By operating for the reduction of violence against children and youth, and particularly against girls and young women, the programme is strongly linked with the implementation of the target 5.2 of the 2030 Agenda: “Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation”.

At a local and national level, the specific contribution the APG23 programme is providing to fight violence against children and young women - and to the realization of the target 5.2 at national level - is aligned with the policy levels featured in the National strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Indeed, also through the collaboration with other civil society networks and public institutions, APG23 programme is coherent with and supportive to the local implementation of the main sectorial policies, plans and instruments that Brazil has put in place to reduce violence and sexual exploitation against children and women, such as the “National Plan for fighting violence against children and

adolescents”, the “National policy for fighting all forms of violence against women”, the “Statute of children and adolescents”, the “Maria da Penha” Act, the “Feminine Act”. Most of these policies and plans, whose implementation is supported by the APG23 programme, are specifically gathered in the related section of the National strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that the Brazilian Government has presented in the Voluntary National Review during the 2017 High-Level Political Forum.

The National strategy represents the first important step for the building of an overarching policy framework and the internalization and localization of the 2030 Agenda, but the whole process is still on-going, as well as the convergence process between the Federal government’s planning instrument and public policy implementation (as the 2016-2019 Multi-Year Plan) and the SDGs targets.

## 5) GLOBAL LEVEL

### **Integrated frame of APG23 consolidated action to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all (SDG target 10.2) and enhance the global partnership for sustainable development (SDG target 17.16)**

“We live in a globalised era and interdependent world. The recurrent economic and financial crises, climate change, and food crises re-emphasize the **relevance of the Right to Development and the need for its implementation**. Moreover, increased inequalities within and between countries worldwide show how the Right to Development is relevant for both developed and developing countries.

These inequalities also demonstrate that it is not possible to guarantee other Human Rights without the realization of the Right to Development. The need to make progress with consolidating the principles of solidarity, collective and shared responsibility, with due respect for the sovereignty of peoples, and to facilitate effective international cooperation without conditionality, as well to find a balance between the national and international responsibilities, becomes more and more imperative.”<sup>5</sup>

**APG23 is globally committed to the promotion and the whole realization of the Right to Development.** At a global stage, in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, APG23 is in particular **engaged in undertaking measures and programmes to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all (SDG target 10.2) and enhance the global partnership for sustainable development (SDG target 17.16).**

Hereby we list some of these worldwide programmes, as an example of transnational best practices:

- **Social inclusion programmes for disadvantaged, marginalized and disabled people**, by providing shelter, protection and social inclusion paths to more than **4.500 people**;

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<sup>5</sup> Written Statement submitted by APG23 and others to the 24th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council – Item 2 & 3 – Interactive Dialogue

- **Educational programmes for vulnerable children**, providing access to school, educational and skills training activities to more than **5.000 children and youth**;
- **Food security and Nutritional programmes**, providing more than **20.000 meals a day** for vulnerable people, malnourished children and people living in extreme poverty conditions;
- **Nonviolent Peace building and Peacekeeping programmes**, ensuring human rights monitoring and protection, the promotion of reconciliation processes and sustaining nonviolent experiences in conflict areas.

In a unified and integrated vision, these programmes aim at granting **access to Development processes to vulnerable people and groups**, otherwise excluded from them, by realizing concrete solidarity actions that **contribute to the reduction of the inequalities between and within countries, between groups and peoples**.

Being present in 40 Countries worldwide with members from different social, ethnic, national, cultural backgrounds and pursuing social promotion and inclusion objectives, APG23 is devoted to forge new paths of partnerships for sustainable development that arise first of all at grass-roots level and through inclusive and truly participatory processes in the spirit of the **international solidarity** principle.

## **QUESTION 2 - Main challenges and obstacles faced in supporting the national sustainable development agendas that promote and realize all human rights, including the right to development for all.**

### **1. General remarks**

Being present in many developing countries, APG23 is confident in affirming that even the best national sustainable development agenda in such countries will not be fully successful unless the economic, financial and political structural obstacles that exist at the international level are removed. It is necessary to break down the barriers and monopolies that leave so many countries on the margins of development. A commitment to effective international cooperation and solidarity among States is very much needed and due. This includes, among others, fair aid, trade and investments, debt cancellation, transfer of technology, revision of intellectual property rights protection to guarantee access to medicines, financing for development, institutional reforms, climate change responses as well as disarmament and reduction of military expenditure in favour of social and development policies formulated with a human rights based approach.

Many developing countries, unless the abovementioned international structural obstacles are removed through an effective global partnership, may not be fully motivated in their engagement for a sound national sustainable development agenda.

### **1.1 Challenges**

At a global level, one of the major challenges faced in supporting the national sustainable development agendas is probably the more relevant missing elements of the 2030 Agenda: the

absence of clearly defined, independent and robust mechanisms to make Governments accountable for their commitment to implement the SDGs. Already existing tools, as peer review within the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), even if relevant and consistent, are anyway not exhaustive. Many countries still have not put in place nor proposed such review mechanisms, making more difficult the level of engagement of civil society organizations (CSOs).

In order to successfully make CSOs and other partners at national level being involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, another challenging issue is the need to promote mechanisms that ensure their participation during the design, planning and monitoring phases of the SDGs implementing policies and plans at national and local level.

The challenge of participation in the SDGs implementation is closely linked to the need of ensuring the availability of adequate statistical data for effective and participatory monitoring and review mechanisms. In many countries, the process to align national statistical systems to these needs has still not been put in place or has not been enough participatory, even if it can be crucial to many aspects relevant for the SDGs implementation, as its adaptation, localization and capacity to engage and involve also marginalized groups and categories. To this end, the availability of adequately disaggregated sets of data is of primary importance, and participatory processes in their selection and monitoring should be ensured.

Another major challenge faced in supporting the national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is determined by the indivisible and global nature of the 2030 Agenda. Interdependence and inter linkages between SDGs require innovative and integrated approaches and types of engagement of (and between) all ministries and Government sectors to enable crosscutting schemes for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This requires Governments to build an overarching strategy in the SDGs national adaptation and implementation that should result in processes able to integrate sectorial policies and promote their review in order to be aligned with the 2030 Agenda. In this regard, within the national strategy, Governments should not only list, but also assess and revise the existing policy frameworks and conduct an in-depth gap analysis to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

In this process, launched already by many Governments, that often needs more ambitious and participatory approaches, mechanisms to ensure Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development are strongly needed.

Finally, a widely observed challenge for the SDGs national implementation is the adequacy and consistency of financial resources mobilization at all levels, the lack of which could seriously undermine the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda despite of the commitments agreed in the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## **1.2 Obstacles**

In different contexts we found that some of the above-mentioned challenges turned in real obstacles while supporting the implementation of national sustainable development agenda. Hereby we summarize the most relevant:

- Insufficient level of people and civil society organizations involvement in planning and implementation processes, as well as in the design and adoption of national strategies.

- Poor efforts in ensuring a Policy Coherence framework and in revising specific sector policy strategies, if not aligned to the 2030 Agenda, during the adoption processes of national strategies for Sustainable Development.
- Lack of clearly defined and participatory monitoring and review mechanisms.
- Insufficient localization and tailoring of the national sustainable development agendas to address more marginalized groups and regions.
- Inadequate financial resource mobilization.
- Lack of systematic information by the media and governmental communication programmes on the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and its goals.

As a last remark, we wish to underline the generally scarce knowledge of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals by citizens and public opinion. Information about the 2030 Agenda is often reserved and conveyed to insiders, while the general public does not know about its existence, what it is, and much less knows its contents. The general lack of knowledge of the Sustainable Development Goals has also a negative impact on the capacity, at national and local level, to address problems that societies daily face in relation to global issues as wars, structural poverty or mass migration. While the general public perceives the necessity and difficulty of addressing the various social emergencies, without knowing the Agenda 2030 it remains unaware of the strategies that have been agreed at international level to remove the causes that create some of these emergencies.

Whether this effect is due to a lack of political will or a simple underestimation of the potential of this global and universal agenda is not easy to understand. Therefore, a global communication effort to spread the SDGs and promote their knowledge should be prioritized; for example by systematically linking them with the issues and emergencies the world is facing every day. This would allow people to feed the concrete hope that, beyond emergencies, there are an international plan and a set of measures - based on a global consensus – meant to overcome the crises affecting the countries and societies.