



ITEM 3, General Debate

Oral Statement delivered by Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII

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Mr President,

We are living a humanitarian disaster, yet the world is silent.

More than 20 million people are facing crisis or severe food insecurity in the Horn of Africa.¹ In Yemen, after almost 2 years of war, more than 7 million are facing food insecurity, and many more are facing acute shortages of clean water and sanitation. Nearly 3.3 million people – including 2.1 million children – are acutely malnourished.²

Across the Lake Chad Basin, almost one third of the population is struck by food insecurity. Malnutrition and related mortality are critically high. More than 500,000 children are severely acutely malnourished.³

Many people are dying and will die in the next months. and when eventually the emergency will finish, the question will be not if there will be another humanitarian disaster but when. What else are we waiting for to tackling the root causes of all these disasters? How many people will have to die? How many children will have to suffer hunger?

In 2015, Member States have committed themselves adopting the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind starting from the most vulnerable. After 2 years, we are already leaving more than 20 million people behind while the root causes of food insecurity and poverty are not addressed and the possible tools to address them are too often voluntarily ignored.

Last week the Independent Expert on human right and international solidarity presented a draft declaration on the right to international solidarity. In the preamble is stated that “international solidarity is essential in overcoming global challenges such as natural disasters, health emergencies and epidemic diseases, the adverse effects of climate change, armed conflict, poverty and hunger, especially among children, terrorism and transnational armed militias, and violence against women”.⁴

The tragic situation above mentioned is just a clear example of how preventive solidarity can help in tackling the root causes of disasters.

If the 2030 Agenda is not just a political move but a real instrument to leave no one behind, its full implementation should tackle the root causes of food insecurity, poverty and vulnerability.

In this regard the implementation of the already declared Right to Development and of the recently declared Right to Peace and the recognition of the Right to International Solidarity are very crucial steps for the progress of the human family towards equality and social justice.

Thank You!

¹ <http://www.who.int/emergencies/famine/en/>

² <http://www.who.int/emergencies/response-plans/2017/yemen/en/>

³ <http://www.who.int/emergencies/response-plans/2017/lake-chad-basin/en/>

⁴ Annex to A/HRC/35/35