



37th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 26 February - 23 March 2018

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

On UPR outcomes of Zambia

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Mr President,

We welcome the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of Zambia and commend the Government of Zambia for its constructive participation in the third cycle of the UPR process.

Since 1985, APG23 has been carrying out diverse and wide-ranging development projects in Zambia for the promotion and protection of the right to food and adequate nutrition, the right to an inclusive education and the rights of persons with disabilities.

Therefore, given our experience, we commend the progress made on these issues by the Zambian Government and note with appreciation that it supports a set of recommendations proposed during the recent UPR session for the full realization of these rights.

That being said and aware of the complexity of the issues at stake, we are still concerned about some practical obstacles that prevent the fulfilment of these rights and we regret that the efforts made until now have not been sufficient to reach the desired results (of combating malnutrition and ensuring universal access to education as well as social and/or labour inclusion of people with disabilities).

In light of this, we would like to make the following further recommendations to the Zambian Government so that its population can effectively enjoy its rights:

- make further funding available and better allocate the necessary resources for food and nutrition, education, and social and labour inclusion of people with disabilities;
- strengthen nutrition education in schools;
- establish a national schools mapping mechanism for planning substantial renovations in order to upgrade the conditions of education facilities;
- ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- create more centres offering training and socialization opportunities to people with disabilities as well as adequate and comprehensive community-based services;
- carry out national awareness-raising programs for social and labour inclusion of intellectually disabled people;
- develop coordinated policies for the inclusive education of children with disabilities as well as mandatory trainings for teachers;
- involve disabled pupils' parents and community in school activities to share their expertise.

In conclusion, we would like to encourage the Zambian authorities to ensure the effective implementation of the UPR recommendations through the establishment of a permanent governmental mechanism to liaise with all relevant stakeholders. Thank You!

