



Human Rights Council 2nd Intersessional Meeting, 3 December 2019
“HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

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Mr President,

APG23 would like to thank for the convening of this meeting, which is an invaluable opportunity to reflect once more on the real possibilities of implementation of the Agenda, being also a means to breach the decisional and operational gaps between New York and Geneva.

From the precious insights we listened to today, we appreciate the reaffirmation of the unbreakable nature of the SDGs, which are grounded in human rights since their drafting. However, we recognize also the risk of the Agenda becoming a regulatory framework of reference into which incorporate practices and policies already present at national level and not being a real driving force for change.

We, as APG23, believe that an effective implementation of the Agenda could pass through two main issues:

On one hand, the adoption and use of stronger accountability mechanisms, which are in part already in place, but often ineffective. In particular, the integration of a human rights-based approach into the monitoring and follow-up of the Agenda could represent a breakthrough in its achievement.

On the other hand, in implementing the SDGs, it is necessary to adopt the lens of the Right to Development with its transformative vision, as affirmed in the preamble of the 2030 Agenda. Applying a Right to Development approach would enable governments, as well as different actors and stakeholders, to focus not only on the single outcomes, but also on the process by which they are achieved.

Thanks to the knowledge gained by our work at the grass root level in many countries, we feel confident in affirming that even the best national sustainable development implementation programs in such countries will not be fully successful unless the economic, financial and political structural obstacles that exist at the international level are removed. A commitment to effective international cooperation and solidarity among States is very much needed and due.

Moreover, considering the VNRs presented so far at the HLPF, we have noticed a lack of systematic reference to human rights and we would like member states not to overlook this crucial aspect.

In conclusion, it is very necessary to break down the barriers and monopolies that leave not only so many individuals behind, but also so many countries on the margins of development.

Thank you!