

## 15<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### **Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development**

#### **Interactive Dialogue with Independent Expert on extreme poverty and human rights**

Joint statement by:

**The International Movement ATD Fourth World**

**Association Points-Coeur**

**Associazione Comunita' Papa Giovanni XXIII**

**Bureau international catholique de l'enfance (BICE)**

**COHRE**

**Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers)**

**Franciscans International**

**International Commission of Jurists**

**International Council of Women**

**The Right to Education Project-ActionAid International**

**World Organization against Torture**

**Worldwide Organization of Women**

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of 12 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who have been supporting the Council's work on the Draft Guiding Principles (DGPs) on Extreme Poverty and Human rights.

First of all, we congratulate and welcome the Independent Expert (IE)'s report and recommendations on how to improve the DGPs. The annotated outline included in the report reflects the many comments received over the last three years of consultations with all stakeholders, as set out in the three reports compiled by the OHCHR in 2008 and 2009.<sup>1</sup> As requested by many stakeholders, it , underlines the added-value of the DGPs, sets out the implications of existing human rights instruments for people living in extreme poverty, is concrete and action-oriented, and fully recognizes the responsibilities of the various actors at national and international levels.

The process started almost 10 years ago when the Commission on Human Rights stressed the need to develop guiding principles on the implementation of existing human rights norms and standards in the context of the fight against extreme poverty. We have now reached the point where a final product is in sight,

And the moment could not be more opportune. The international community is still struggling to respond to the financial and food crises. At the same time, governments will soon begin preparing the UN's agenda for post-2015. These guiding principles, if finalized, could serve as a useful tool for evaluating and improving on the MDGs, as well as developing countermeasures against future crises.

As often repeated in the past decade, extreme poverty is one of the most serious human rights challenges for the international community. It is a human-made tragedy and thus can be reversed with sufficient political will and appropriate policies. We therefore appreciate the fact that the Independent Expert recalls the numerous binding obligations and political commitments which

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<sup>1</sup> [Draft Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights: the rights of the poor: A Technical Review, 2009](#); [Draft Guiding Principles on 'Extreme Poverty and Human Rights: the Rights of the Poor' Background paper on views and comments of States and other relevant stakeholders, January 2009](#); [Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the draft guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights: the rights of the poor: Summarising the replies and contributions received by the secretariat on the draft guiding principles, February 2008](#).

underline the shared responsibility for the eradication of extreme poverty and the need for global partnership.

In order for the guidelines to become a regular basis for decision-making in anti-poverty programmes, we would recommend the addition of a section on monitoring, which would emphasize the importance of developing indicators and benchmarks, and making use of existing mechanisms at the national and international level to review their application by the States themselves, national human rights institutions, and CSOs, as well as by the treaty bodies, Special Procedures, and the Universal Periodic Review.

Therefore we urge the Council to:

- 1) maintain the deadline of 2012 for finalizing the draft guiding principles
- 2) to this end, mandate the Independent Expert on human rights and extreme poverty to prepare a new draft according to her proposed outline
- 3) request the OHCHR to hold consultations with all stakeholders on the new outline and provide the necessary support to the Independent Expert to finalize the guiding principles
- 4) request the final version to be presented to the Council in its 18<sup>th</sup> session.

Thank you