

**Oral Statement by International Movement ATD Fourth World, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Franciscans International, CIVICUS, International Catholic Child Bureau, and Points-Coeur,
to the 19th Session of the Human Rights Council, Agenda Item 2,
on the OHCHR Analytical compilation of the submissions received in writing
and made at the consultation on the progress report
on the draft guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights**

Madam President,

I am speaking on behalf of six NGOs in relation to the OHCHR report A/HRC/19/32 on the results of the consultations on the draft guiding principles on human rights and extreme poverty.

The Commission, and now the Council, on Human Rights has been working since 2001 on guiding principles to place human rights at the heart of the fight against extreme poverty. It is an innovative undertaking, for it is the first time that a normative text on extreme poverty and human rights has been initiated.

The Council has repeatedly reiterated the importance of integrating human rights into the international development framework. Most recently, many of the governments attending the excellent seminar organized last week on the Adverse Impacts of Climate Change on the Full Enjoyment of Human Rights called for human rights to be placed at the centre of the Rio + 20 discussions, for which one of the pillars is poverty eradication.

At the Council's request, the OHCHR has now carried out two rounds of consultations on the first draft of the guiding principles. The Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights will submit a final draft to the Council in September 2012. It will reflect the many contributions received from governments, international organizations, national human rights institutions, human rights experts, and NGOs. The guiding principles are being finalized at an opportune time, when the international community is discussing how to put the world on the path to sustainable development. Their adoption in September of this year would provide the world with a concrete tool for integrating human rights into this new development framework. It would enable the Council to make a direct contribution to discussions on the post-2015 agenda.

At the same time, it would demonstrate that the Council has heard the voices of the many people around the world who have suffered, and are still suffering, from the recent series of crises. As expressed by one participant in a consultation on the DGPs in Cusco, Peru, in 2007: "We, the poor... we want to become a part of society and to feel that we exist and are human beings just like everyone else."¹

It has been 10 years since the work began. It is now time to finish the job.

Thank you.

¹ Dignity in the face of extreme poverty, *Consultations with people in extreme poverty on the draft guiding principles*, "Extreme Poverty and Human Rights: The Rights of the Poor," October 2007, p. 16.