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Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII

associazione internazionale di fedeli di diritto pontificio – www.apg23.org

Ente Ecclesiastico Civilemente Riconosciuto con D.P.R. n. 596/72
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15th 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 # 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 2009.¹ As requested by many stakeholders, it 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, when finalized, will 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. As the Independent Expert put it, "Poverty is not an inevitable phenomenon". It is human-made tragedy and thus can be reversed with sufficient political will and appropriate policies.

¹ [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.](#)



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The proposed outline would set out the particular obstacles faced by people living in extreme poverty, which must be taken into account in the development of effective and sustainable policies and programmes. The guidelines would recognize the fact that extreme poverty is not only a question of low-income but also of social exclusion and discrimination, and that overcoming it requires the participation of people living in extreme poverty. The actions it proposes on the part of States as well as the international community would thus provide a useful tool for all stakeholders who are involved in poverty reduction and development programmes.

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 give responsibility to the existing treaty bodies to review their application as relevant to their mandates.

Therefore we urge the Council to:

maintain the deadline of 2012 for adopting the draft guiding principles
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 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 18th session.

Thank you,