



**Oral Statement delivered to**  
**26<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council**  
*Agenda Item 3: Clustered Interactive Dialogue*  
Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty  
June 11, 2014

### **Right-based Approach to Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development**

The Mining Working Group at the UN, the International Movement ATD Fourth World, and Franciscans International would like to take this opportunity to thank the former Special Rapporteur, Magdalena Sepúlveda, for the commitment and competence with which she carried out her mandate. The excellent reports that she produced reflected her commitment to extensive consultation with all concerned stakeholders, including people living in extreme poverty. Among her accomplishments is the successful completion of the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty, which were entrusted first to the Advisory Committee and then the Special Rapporteur, and which will – we are convinced – constitute an excellent tool in the fight against extreme poverty.

On this same occasion, we want to welcome the new Special Rapporteur, Philip Alston, who we know brings a wealth of experience and knowledge on human rights to the mandate. We look forward to discussing with you the ways in which, in your capacity as Special Rapporteur, the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights can continue to be promoted as a useful tool in the development and implementation of policies and programs for the eradication of extreme poverty.

Next week as you know, the political negotiations for the design of the Sustainable Development Goals will resume. Based on the experiences of our members, we see it as especially urgent that the SDGs promote structural transformations and alternatives to the current extractive model of development. To date, current discussions continue to promote natural resource extraction under the predominant market-driven paradigm as a key poverty reduction strategy. This is without acknowledging the lack of benefits actually brought to those living in poverty and without scrutiny of the systematic human rights abuses that are inflicted by this model of development, especially on women, indigenous peoples and peasant communities. In this sense, the participation of those groups in the planning, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of the policies and programs that affect their lives and the natural resources of their communities is crucial.

Mr. Alston, given your experience and new mandate, you are uniquely placed to advise States in this process and encourage an agenda that, through a rights-based approach, addresses the structural causes of poverty and inequality. We look forward to exploring with you ways to collaborate in promoting the objectives of the mandate in the post-2015 agenda.