

## **Civil society comment to the ECOSOC Integration Segment - Monday July 6th 2020**

### **International Movement ATD Fourth World**

Thank you Mr Vice President for the opportunity to ask a question.

We have heard from the distinguished speakers the extent to which the most vulnerable populations included women are being disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Similarly, communities living in poverty are also on the frontline of environmental degradation and climate change. This is true in the global South where already struggling families see their livelihoods destroyed by natural disasters and climate change but also in the global North where low-income communities are at a greater risk to live in polluted areas. Too often, they have no other choice but to accept dangerous work without protection from disease or accidents, thus creating premature wear on the body and calling into question their inherent dignity. Our society treats nature the same way as it treats its poorest members. Their labor is used and when no longer useful, they are set aside, left behind. Likewise, natural resources are looted, degraded and discarded, not given time for regeneration.

In this context, we would like to ask the panelists two questions:

- 1) how can we - UN agencies, governments and civil society - work together in an integrated manner for a new system of values and attitudes, in place of the extractive behaviors toward people and nature that operate in today's world?
- 2) and in keeping with these values, how can we support the UN in integrating the knowledge and experiences of local populations in order to help governments develop effective social and economic recovery plans that will leave no one behind?

Thank you.

Monica Jahangir-Chowdhury,  
Representative to the United Nations,  
International Movement ATD Fourth World