



HRC44 NGO Oral Statement Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights 6 July 2020

We welcome the new mandate holder, Mr Olivier de Schutter, and look forward to supporting his important mandate.

COVID-19 has revealed deep inequalities in our societies, reinforcing entrenched discrimination based on race, gender and socio-economic situation. Those living in extreme poverty are particularly affected.

This crisis comes on top of the climate crisis. Climate-induced disasters, like the recent cyclone in Bangladesh and locust swarms in Africa, also disproportionately harm poor communities, especially in the Global South. The Special Rapporteur warned of a “[climate apartheid](#)”, with climate change threatening to push more than 120 million people into poverty by 2030.

Like the climate crisis, [pandemics are a consequence of large-scale human destruction of nature](#), driven by an extractivist economic model. Future pandemics and climate disasters can only be avoided through embracing new systems that respect planetary boundaries.

The pandemic has also shown that realising economic and social rights through universal public [healthcare](#), education, housing, social protection and food, is not only an obligation of States, it also makes people more resilient in crises.

Transformative solutions based on rights and dignity must include:

- investing in strong public services to counter inequalities and build resilience;
- participatory models of policy-making that include the voices of persons experiencing poverty; and
- protecting the environment and taking ambitious rights-respecting climate action.

Thank you

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