



Letter from the International Leadership Team

DG 15398

Mery sur Oise, France
23 September, 2015

Dear friends,

"Leave no one behind." This is the call of those who struggle each day to overcome poverty and refuse to exclude those worse off than themselves. This is what we learn together every day through their lives and their efforts. This was the primary message of our advocacy around the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), which we carried out with civil society partners, governmental authorities, and the wider international community.

Today, we can be proud and happy that heads of state, who will meet at the United Nations in New York on September 25, 2015 have kept *"leave no one behind"* as a primary ambition for the 2030 agenda. In adopting the Sustainable Development Goals for the next 15 years, these member states will affirm their determination to "eliminate poverty in all its forms and dimensions." They "envisage a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity," will strive to "combat inequalities," reinforce the participation of all, and take "a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind." Such determination should inspire a surge of hope around the world.

When these Sustainable Development Goals are adopted, we will be thinking of each of you. Together in this movement, we have undertaken multiple projects: the participatory research on [Extreme poverty is violence - Breaking the silence - Searching for peace](#) and the [evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) for *"a development that leaves no one behind"*. Together we have created knowledge and political proposals shaped by the contribution made by people among us who confront the violence of poverty everyday. They are the primary actors in the transformation towards a more just world. Over the course of the three last years, through meetings, conferences, and work sessions that we have organized, or which we have been invited to, we have taken these proposals to the highest levels in national and international governance, to the secretary general of the United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

We have invested a lot time and effort in order to influence the 2030 agenda. Our voice has been heard. However, we know that to *"leave no one behind"* is a difficult challenge – in the fight against poverty as in the fight against climate change – that more and more will mobilize people in our nations. It requires that the dignity of people living in deepest poverty be respected and that their life experiences and unique knowledge be recognized. We will stay vigilant. We will follow how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are incorporated into national programs everywhere we work. Whenever possible, we will seek to dialogue with those who are responsible for their implementation. We will join with others who are engaged in the same work for the respect of all human beings and the earth. As a movement, ATD Fourth World members will continue to bring a contribution nourished by the thinking and lives of people and families living in extreme poverty.

As ATD Fourth World members in the Central African Republic recently said: *"What worries us is extreme poverty. But we who search for peace, we cannot let worry paralyze us, because it keeps us from moving forward."* Thus, we will continue to meet each other and share our experiences and our knowledge so that the momentum towards 2030 actually transforms our societies, so that tomorrow our children can live in a world free of poverty.

Let's stay connected.

With our friendship and best regards,



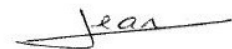
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