

# Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate (IBVM/CJ NGO) Oral Statement - CSocD62

Thank you, Chair for allowing me to address you today, in my capacity as the Representative of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Loreto Generalate, a faith-based NGO serving in over forty countries.

We welcome the Commission on Social Development's focus on poverty eradication as an essential SDG in the 2030 Agenda, and emphasize the gendered nature of this social justice goal, with women and girls disproportionately represented among impoverished populations worldwide.

The connection between poverty and interrelated inequalities is widely accepted, but we believe that it is precisely poverty's central position in such a web of social injustices that is its most challenging feature, but, paradoxically, also its most promising advantage. In this sense, every accelerating factor, every edge of the web - be it lack of health resources, food insecurity or labor abuse - can be turned to the right direction - towards access to healthcare, food security and workers' rights, unleashing a domino effect.

The most powerful double-edged related factor alongside poverty is education. We believe in providing knowledge beyond schools, to both girls and women. Such a broad vision is reflected in the diversity of our programs, whose span includes the establishment of formal and informal schools and vocational training centers in countries including South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Timor Leste, Nepal, as well as

initiatives like the one in India that are focused on raising awareness among women tea plantation workers about their rights while also encouraging local leadership.

Therefore, we call on Member States to redirect financial investment into comprehensive policies whose design follows a bottom-up approach, with those awaiting to climb the ladder leading its very construction - after all, who better to craft a staircase than the ones trapped in the well? Policy design calls not only for a broader understanding of poverty beyond basic needs' thresholds, but, furthermore, it requires a wider conception of impoverished individuals, accounting for intersectionality, and escaping a one-size-fits-all approach.

We ask governments to come to a consensus on a Global Fund for Social Protection, to invest public expenditure in the construction of the ladder, rather than in carving the well.