

**Response from the *Parliamentary Commissioner for Civil Rights in Hungary* to the Questionnaire Report (HRC/15/41) of the Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty on the draft guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights**

*Ad II.*

To work out and implement guiding principles on human rights and extreme poverty is even crucial in the period of the deep and unfortunately long term consequences of global crises. Practical guidance to operationalize the obligations of the Signatory Parties is absolutely necessary, because the theoretical commitment in most of the cases exist, but there are always open questions how to finance the implementation of the measures on fighting against poverty in time of cut backs. I share the opinion not only of the Ms Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona in this report, but also Mr Thomas Hammarberg, Commissioner for Human Rights (Council of Europe), that the budgetary deficit and other fiscal problems of the crises must not be solved by human rights cut backs (e.g. social benefits, etc). It is also a barrier facing the efficient solution to the problems of poverty and exclusion, that generally the international conventions, commitments or legal means of the European Union are not able to be bound by law; they, as social issues are usually in the field of “soft law”.

*Ad III.*

Poverty is really a multidimensional phenomena, it could not be seen only the problems of lack of housing, the poor income or the inadequate health and social care. It is a complex problem, and in most of the cases it related not only one person, but whole families. In this latter case, it has to be highlighted, that no one, but especially the children, should not fall out from the hands of the social nets of the Signatory countries. The guiding principles shall emphasize the special status and importance of children living in (risk of) poverty, but in my opinion a child could not be helped efficiently and in a sustainable way separately from the parents or caretakers.

Let me share that after the proposal of the Hungarian Government in 2007, a Parliamentary Resolution 47/2007 (V.31) OGY on the National Strategy 2007-2032 “Making Things Better for our Children” had been created, (see: in attachment) emphasizing that children enjoy special protections which include using all means available to guarantee children’s right to a living standard enabling their appropriate physical, intellectual, spiritual, moral, and social development.

Other specific groups, so called vulnerable groups, need more focused attention also in the guiding principles, like elderly people, persons living with disabilities, or multi-disadvantaged members of ethnical minorities.

*Ad IV.*

I agree that the poverty is not inevitable phenomena; it is result of series of actions taken. It goes more beyond the lack or low rate of income, of discrimination, lack of interest representation capacity, etc. These important, and in itself serious sub-elements are linking to each other, the problem of poverty should be tackled to be seen holistically.

*Ad V.*