



## **International Movement ATD Fourth World NGO programmes in Madagascar**

The NGO Working Committee on Education invited Ms. Diana Skelton, representative of the International Movement ATD Fourth World, to brief on their programme on children in Madagascar. The meeting took place on 15 November, 2006, in the UNICEF House, New York. It was chaired by Ms. Kate Kolchin, Chair of the NGO Working Group on Education. Participants in the meeting included representatives of the Madagascar Mission to the UN, NGO Office/OESC/DESA, Rotary International and other NGO representatives.

Ms. Skelton informed of the activities undertaken such as programmes on literacy, health, street library, getting children to schools, bringing IT to young people. The street library programme reaches 600 children. Some problems met by NGOs working in the educational programmes are: some families cannot afford to pay school fees; not enough room for all the children in school; and children born at home have no identification documents and hence cannot enroll for school. The International Movement ATD Fourth World programme now is mainly directed in the capital city, Antananarivo. Soon they will be developing programmes to rural areas. Ms. Skelton pointed out some priority areas that need to be focused: healthcare infrastructure, vocational workshops, and books for children.

Ms. Michele Fedoroff, Deputy Chief, NGO Office/DESA informed of the ECOSOC initiative on the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (UNPPA). Mr. Abraham Joseph, focal point for the UN Public-Private Alliance for Rural Development (UNPPA) further added that Fourth World programme could be linked for partnership with the ICT Village/Millennium Village in Sambaina.

Mr. Sylvan Barnet Jr., representative of the Rotary International informed of the contribution of 400 computers to Madagascar. Another 600 computers would be shipped in the near future.

Ms. Kolchin thanked Ms. Skelton for the briefing and the representatives of the various organizations for their participation.