

International Presentation Association, in special consultative status with Economic and Social Council

Oral intervention on ‘Addressing the root causes of poverty’

49th Session of the Commission for Social Development, 9-18 February 2011

Priority Theme: Poverty Eradication

Thank you Chairperson, for the opportunity to present our hopes on ‘addressing the root causes of poverty’ during the 49th Session of the Commission for Social Development, the review year on the priority theme *‘Poverty Eradication’*

My name is Joan Power and I represent the International Presentation Association.

The civil society declaration to the 49th Session of the Commission for Social Development emphasized that addressing the root causes of poverty calls for

- A fundamental shift from the dominant development model and
- Basic reform of the international financial architecture

We would like to bring to the attention of this forum the issue of **corporate globalization**¹ that

- is profit driven rather than putting people at the centre of development,
- is exclusive rather than being inclusive especially of the vulnerable people
- robs the livelihood of the vulnerable people including people living in poverty, people with disability, older people and indigenous people, rather than providing job opportunities for them
- causes inequality rather than promoting a sustainable society
- monopolizes earth’s resources rather than the free sharing of them
- destroys grassroots democracy, undermines and subverts national democratic processes by taking economic decisions outside the reach of parliamentarians and civil society

Corporate globalization means less government regulation for commerce and business. The civil society in many countries has been engaged in the struggle against the corporate globalization that paves the way for the vulnerable people of the society to extreme poverty. One of the success stories of the civil society is the victorious struggle by the tribal women of a tiny hamlet called Plachimoda in India’s Kerala State against one of the world’s largest corporation Coco Cola. Another is the collective action of the civil society on the company that tried to take over the water contract in Cochabamba, Bolivia.

Therefore we recommend that the international community and governments consider establishing a legally binding regulatory framework for national and transnational corporations, which will result in a sustainable society.

I thank you for this opportunity.

¹ Earth Democracy –Vandana Shiva