Poverty is an urgent human rights concern in itself. It is both a cause and a consequence of human rights violations and an enabling condition for other violations. Persons living in extreme poverty are confronted by severe obstacles – physical, economic, cultural and social – to accessing their rights. Consequently, they experience interrelated and mutually reinforcing deprivations, cultural prejudice and discrimination – including dangerous work conditions, unaffordable housing, and lack of nutritious food, unequal access to justice, lack of political power, and limited access to health care. Structural and systemic inequalities – social, political, economic and cultural – often remain unaddressed and further entrench poverty. Extreme poverty is not inevitable. The number of people living below a daily income of $1.90 (702 million) is appalling.

**SPEAKERS**

**H.E. Archbishop Bernardito Auza,** Holy See Permanent Observer to the United Nations: **Opening Remarks**

**Dorina Pacebo, IPA,** Project Coordinator for Sustainable Development Goals in three mountain areas in Negros Occidental, PHILLIPINES

**Rev. Ajaya Kumar Singh,** a Catholic Priest, Director of Odisha Regional Forum for Social Action, INDIA

**Sister Teresa Kotturan,** UN Representative, Sisters of Charity Federation

**Rev. John S. Rausch,** a Glenmary Priest, economist, educator and writer, a strong environmentalist, USA

**Facilitator: Ms Marina El Khoury,** UN Representative, Franciscans International

**Moderator: Sister Justine Gitanjali Senapati, CSJ,** UN Representative, Congregations of St. Joseph