Provisional Programme for the Commemoration of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

17 October 2009 (observed on 19 October)
United Nations Headquarters

Children and Families Speak Out Against Poverty

11:00 – 11:30 am Press Conference, Room S-226

- H.E. Mr. Gérard Araud, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

- Ms. Rachel Mayanja, United Nations Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

- Mr. Denzel Matthew, ChildFund International Dominica (with chaperone, Mr. Francis Joseph, Director of ChildFund Caribbean, Dominica)

- Mr. Thierry Viard, Executive Secretary, International Movement ATD Fourth World

Moderator: United Nations Department of Public Information

1:15 - 2:30 pm Commemoration, Conference Room 2

- Opening music by Mr. Adam Ezra

- Introduction by Co-masters of Ceremony, Ms. Samantha Danzler and Ms. Elise Roberts, Fourth World Movement

- Testimony on behalf of children and families living in poverty, Mr. Denzel Matthew, ChildFund International, Dominica

- Message of the United Nations Secretary-General delivered by Mr. Sha Zukang, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, followed by statement

- Statement of Ms. Liz Gibbons, Deputy Director, Policy & Practice, United Nations Children’s Fund

- Testimony on behalf of children and families living in poverty, Ms. Zena Grimes, Fourth World Movement

- Message of H.E. Mr. Gérard Araud, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

- Message of H.E. Mr. Michel Kafando, Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations (or representative)

- Video: Children as Agents of Change, Marymount School

- Recommitment to Overcoming Extreme Poverty: Reading of the Text of the Commemorative Stone and Dedication of Flowers, Sr. Deidre Mullan, Sisters of Mercy

- Testimony of a Youth Delegate to the United Nations, Mr. Chris Varney, Australia
- Rendition of “We Shall Overcome” by Mr. Adam Ezra

- Testimony about the Children’s Parliaments in India, Ms. Fatima Rodrigo, International Presentation Association (IPA)

- Message on behalf of the International Movement ATD Fourth World delivered by Mr. Charles Courtney, President, Fourth World Movement

- Closing comments by Co-masters of Ceremony

3:00 - 5:30 pm Interactive Panel Event, Labouisse Hall, UNICEF House

"Children: the future and the present - participation in poverty reduction and accountability for rights"

- Refreshments

- Introduction by Moderator, Sr. Deirdre Mullan, Sisters of Mercy

- Performance by Treehouse Shakers dance and theater company

- Panelist testimonies on the importance of the right to participate and how that right is exercised
  - H.E. Mr. Crispin S. Gregoire, Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of Dominica to the United Nations
  - H.E. Mr. Gonzalo Gutiérrez, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations
  - Mr. Denzel Matthew, ChildFund International Dominica (with chaperone, Mr. Francis Joseph, Director of ChildFund Caribbean, Dominica)
  - Ms. Ariane Eigler, Social Worker, Bronx Defenders
  - Ms. Denisse Becerra, Youth Delegate of Peru to the United Nations
  - Ms. Liz Gibbons, Deputy Director, Policy & Practice, United Nations Children’s Fund

- Open dialogue with audience