Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the 2017 e-Discussion on 1) eradicating poverty and leaving no one behind; 2) new evidence and innovations in poverty eradication efforts; and 3) systemic challenges and opportunities in eradicating poverty**.**

There have been a number of top down approaches in the past at national and international levels to eradicate poverty including a number of UN Human Rights Instruments. The *Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights* adopted by the Human Rights Council during its 21 Session in September 2012 and the UN General Assembly Resolutions on the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) are among them. While a lot has been achieved through MDGs and the many UN instruments, we witness the various forms of poverty in our world today.

The Human Rights Council has listed***Participation and empowerment***among othersas Foundational Principles of the *Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights.* **Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,** through the **Sustainable Development Goals** (**SDGs**) calls for promoting bottom up approaches that will ensure ***Participation and empowerment*** of those ‘left behind’.

Those ‘left behind’ in our world today are mostly the ones who find no participatory forum to engage in meaningful conversations, to be heard in an environment of ‘power with’.

This is the opportune moment for the UN ECOSOC to strengthen the good practices that are bottom approaches that enable universal participation and empowerment, especially for those ‘left behind’.

One such good practice by the civil society is the Neighbourhood Community Network, promoting multi-tier global federation of neighbourhood parliaments of 30 families each to ensure viable structure for sustainable development; participation and governance from below; direct democracy and sociocracy; an alternative political order, a just equitable world of fraternity and dignity: <http://www.neighborhoodparliament.org/> and <http://www.childrenparliament.in/>

Another good practice is by the government of Kerala, India. Kudumbashree is a good practice *launched by the Government of Kerala in 1998 for wiping out absolute poverty from the State through concerted community action under the leadership of Local Self Governments, Kudumbashree is today one of the largest women-empowering projects in the country. The programme has 41 lakh members and covers more than 50% of the households in Kerala. Built around three critical components, credit, entrepreneurship and empowerment, the Kudumbashree initiative has today succeeded in addressing the basic needs of the less privileged women, thus providing them a more dignified life and a better future. Literal meaning of Kudumbashree is prosperity (Shree) of family (Kudumbam).* <http://www.kudumbashree.org/>