International Committee for October 17

INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

International Committee for October 17:
Appointment of Ms. Aye Aye Win as President of the International Committee

July 6, 2020, Pierrelaye, France—We are pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Aye Aye Win as the next President of the International Committee for October 17. The Committee was established in 2008 to promote and support the observance of the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty, observed on October 17th each year, which is recognised as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by the United Nations.

“We are very honoured to welcome Ms. Aye Aye Win as the new President of the International Committee for October 17,” said Ms. Isabelle Pypaert Perrin, Director General ATD Fourth World. “Her commitment to the spirit and objectives of October 17 is impressive. She has served as a committed member of the International Committee since 2014 and has contributed significantly to the work of the Committee through her advocacy and activism in defense of the human rights of people living in extreme poverty.”

Through her work at Dignity International, which she helped to establish in 1999, Ms. Aye Aye Win has defended the human rights of people in poverty, amplified their voices, and raised the visibility of their faces and struggles to the international level. Her experience, expertise and commitment to human rights, dignity and social justice will strengthen the human rights work of the Committee.

She is originally from Myanmar and now resides with her family in Strasbourg, France. She is a co-founder and former director of Dignity International where she provided strategic vision, as well as programme and organisational leadership. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the International Network on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR-Net) and was Vice President/ Member of the Board of Directors of Inter Press Service (IPS).

Ms. Aye Aye Win replaces Mr. Donald Lee who had served as President of the International Committee for October 17 since 2012.

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The International Committee for October 17 was established in 2008 with the following goals: to promote the 17 of October as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, as recognised by the United Nations, uniting those who are striving together to end poverty; to promote the observance of the 17 of October in its original spirit; and, to promote opportunities where people from a variety of backgrounds, including those whose lives are most difficult, can work together in the fight against extreme poverty as a violation of Human Rights.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was first celebrated as the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty at a major public rally held on the 17 of October 1987 in Paris, where one hundred thousand people from all backgrounds responded to a call from Father Joseph Wresinski, founder of ATD Fourth World, to gather at the Plaza of Liberties and Human Rights. On this day, a declaration was engraved on a Commemorative Stone proclaiming that extreme poverty is a violation of human rights and affirming the need for all people to unite to ensure that these rights are respected.

In 1992, the United Nations proclaimed the 17th of October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Since then, governments, local authorities, members of civil society and the private sector have recognized the importance of this International Day, which has become a key rallying point for a growing number of citizens and organizations from all backgrounds, in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty.