**Human Rights Council**

**Intersessional panel discussion on the right to social security**

***Theme: The right to social security in the changing world of work***

1 November 2021, 10:00-12:00 and 14.30-16.30

Pre-recorded video statement by Herman Van Breen,

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Translation from French original

# Access to basic social protection benefits

# for families living in deepest poverty

# The Knowledge – Health – Participation project in Haiti

Since the 1980s, ATD Fourth World has been working in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, with people living in extreme poverty and local actors in the fields of health and education. This relationship has given rise to a pilot project entitled Knowledge-Health-Participation, which enables very poor families to have access to the basic social security programmes that they prioritize. The families themselves along with partners are involved in the development of the project.

Since 1997, this programme has included health insurance, which today covers 1,100 families - that is, almost 4,000 people. It provides access to primary health care, vaccination, family planning, health check-ups and, if necessary, hospital care and the services of a nutritional rehabilitation centre. This health insurance programme is part of a larger project that includes access to birth certificates, early childhood development within the family environment, and education and training, particularly for young girls.

This pilot project ensures the implementation of the right to social security in a very practical way that can be reproduced because it is anchored in local realities and local resources as well as those of the State. It is able to reach the poorest families in a country in which poverty is widespread – this constitutes a guarantee that all other families will also be covered, since no one is left behind, not even the hardest to reach.

Our recommendations:

1) Involve people in the development, implementation and evaluation of social protection policies to reach the poorest and ensure sustainable access to services for all;

2) Create processes that can build on small-scale experiences and integrate them into national systems.

Thank you for your attention.