

Saturday, June 14th 2025

CONTRIBUTION by the INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT ATD FOURTH WORLD to the call in preparation of the High-Level Conference on the European Social Charter on 18–19 March 2026 in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

Dear Team preparing the Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe,

Dear Rafael Benitez and the Directorate of Social Rights, Health and Environment,

We welcome and commend the initiative of the coming Moldovan Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, to organise and host a new High-Level Conference on the European Social Charter in March 2026.

The International Movement ATD Fourth World looks forward to supporting in whatever ways possible and meaningful the work and outcomes of the Conference and it will give visibility to it as usual, to advance the the process of making social rights real for all in Europe.

We are very supportive to the idea that the conference could adopt a European Social Charter Action Plan (2026–2030).

Here below are some initial inputs as preparation of the Conference goes on.

Thanking you in advance for the way you will look at this contribution,

Best regards,

Pierre KLEIN – Coordinator for ATD Europe – Co-Chair of the CINGO Civil Society Committee for the European Social Charter

Inputs and remarks by INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT ATD FOURTH WORLD

1 – A few members of the CINGO Civil Society Committee for the European Social Charter could be invited to the Conference and have active role in the official programme. We assume that like for the Vilnius Conference, remote online live viewing will be possible for all members of the ESC CINGO Committee.

2 - ATD Fourth World as member of CINGO backs the contribution and proposals which could have been submitted by the CINGO Steering Committee.

3. Together with Co-Chair Caritas Europa, ATD initiated at debate and work in the CINGO Civil Society Committee for the European Social Charter which led to the adoption at the 2025 Spring Session of CINGO of the [CONF/AG\(2025\)DECL1 Declaration on the announced EU anti- poverty strategy](#) (approved on 9 April 2025).

At the time of the 18–19 March 2026, the new EU Anti Poverty Strategy will most probably be finalised, adopted and publicised.

We would value the fact that the programme of the Conference would include a multilateral discussion(in plenary or parallel session) on the rôle of RESC and social rights in national and European Anti-Poverty Strategies (see last point below).

4. The 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development was a milestone in framing the key priorities for global social development. We would welcome the fact that the Conference in Moldova take stocks of the outcomes of the 2nd World Summit for Social Development taking place in Doha in November 2025 and discusses its main messages. Will they flag strong support to Social Rights or will multilateralism in 2025 weaken the role of this Human Rights framework ?

5. ATD Fourth World at European level is currently involved in at least two processes addressing contemporary social rights challenges which we would name :

- Social Rights' role in the Future of Democracy and democratic stability.
- Epistemic Justice : a new challenge for Social Rights ?

Future of Democracy : ATD submitted a proposal for contribution to next « World Forum for Democracy » with the aim to present the current EU Horizon Research RESPONSIVE on social services, responsiveness and « democratic front line institutions » (See attached).

The Responsive project will present its learnings in Brussels in February 2026 just before the Conference in Moldova. Social Services are key stakeholders in the delivery of social rights. Yet we know all the issues generated by Non Take Up and Institutionnal Maltraement.

We identify the chain « Inclusive, Responsive and Participatory Social Services → Improved effective delivery of Social Rights → Trust in Democratic Institution and Innovations » as a process to look at in the coming years and a contemporary social rights challenge.

Epistemic Justice : Between 2019 and 2023, ATD Fourth World lead an inclusive and participatory social philosophy project enabeling co-construction by people in poverty and philosophs of enrich conceptualisation of « Epistemic Justice ». This work on “epistemic injustice” was a dialogue with feminist, decolonial, and anti-racist philosophies. Such ways of thinking about injustice, centered on its experiential dimension, names experiences that have elaborated and described in the context of various social justice struggles. The innovative aspect of the ATD work is found in the identification of new forms of injustice linked to knowledge. Adding to the injustices described by Miranda Fricker in her work « Epistemic Injustice » (Oxford University Press, 2007), the ATD research group describes novel forms of epistemic injustice, including for instance the “injustice of broken heritage” which investigates injustices concerning the transmission and evaluation of knowledge originating from people affected by poverty.

This work (published so far in French and soon in English - www.atd-quartmonde.fr/produit/pour-une-nouvelle-philosophie-sociale-2/) relates to all the challenges of inclusive and participatory co-construction, co-creation, co-design which are now addressed in many fields of our public policy processes and social life. They generate some new questions : Should there be a new type of human or social right which could address the deep need of human being and human communities of each to see his individual knowledge recognised and to be involved in the co-construction of shared knowledge (knowledge in broad sense, including policy design based on recognised knowledge).

On a experimental level, the new concept tool presented by Olivier de Schutter at the World Bank in 2024 (IDEEP Inclusive and Deliberative Elaboration & Evaluation of Policies

- www.srpoverty.org/fr/2024/02/09/tool-for-the-inclusive-and-deliberative-elaboration-evaluation-of-policies-ideep/) is one example of this continuous search for Epistemic Justice.

If other stakeholders involved in the Conference resonate to or flag similar interests or themes, and if the organisers select one of these issues, ATD Fourth World will be ready to liaise with relevant partners to address these issues during the conference.

6. In relation to item 3.

ATD would be ready to co-organise with relevant partners a side event or parallel session titled:
Social Rights as pillar of national and European anti-poverty strategies”

As mentionned in point 3, in the first term of 2026, so most probably a few weeks before the Chisinau High Level Conference, the European Commission will announce the new EU Anti-Poverty Strategy. Some Council of Europe Member States are currently updating or creating their national strategies (ex. Luxembourg)

This session could:

- Assess developments since adoption by CINGO of the 9th April 2025 “Statement on the announced EU anti-poverty strategy” CONF/AG(2025)DECL1- (<https://rm.coe.int/statement-resolution-recommendation-on-the-announced-eu-anti-poverty-s/1680b523ad>)
- Present findings and approaches from the work of civil society members of CINGO
- Initiated dialogue on the content of the new EU Anti-Poverty Strategy and impact on other “non EU” Council of Europe Member States.

We could discuss with members of the Social Rights Committee of the CINGO, and other partners, to coordinate the event. We would request visibility support, basic funding, and the participation of Council of Europe Europe as well as EU and member States representatives, to ensure these insights feed into the final Conference report.