



**“Paradigm Shift: Tools to Ensure Best Practice
when engaging marginalized communities and youth.”**

Monday, July 10th, 2023, 12pm to 1pm EDT, Conference room 5, UNHQ

An 2023 SDGs Learning, Training, and Practice session presented by the International Movement ATD Fourth World and Fundação Antonio Meneghetti

Full implementation of the 2030 Agenda will only be achieved if design and implementation of solutions and best practices are determined in partnership with, and based on, the firsthand experiential knowledge of communities and youth directly impacted by poverty. The direct involvement of youth and children is essential as they represent the future generations who will be in charge of tomorrow’s world.

Directly contributing to the discussions around the HLPF 2023 theme, *“Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels,”* this 2023 SDGs Learning, Training, and Practice session presented by the International Movement ATD Fourth World and Fundação Antonio Meneghetti contributes to Goal 1, end poverty in all its forms, Goal 4, quality education for all, Goal 10, reduced inequalities, and Goal 16, peace, justice, and strong institutions by providing a guideline to set the conditions for equitable participation that recognize the dignity, experiential knowledge, and insight of communities directly impacted by poverty. Moreover, this session will provide tools to build our own capacities to ensure our ways of working ethical and respectful of people directly impacted by poverty to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (Goal 17), leading to cities and human settlement that are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (Goal 11).

In this view, the session will be highlighting two innovative and inclusive methodologies allowing for the meaningful participation of impacted communities and youth. The first methodology will be presented by the International Movement ATD Fourth World drawing on its sixty years of experience including the experiential knowledge, voices, and ideas of people directly impacted by poverty at the local, national, and international level. ATD Fourth World created the Merging of Knowledge methodology over twenty years ago to balance the unequal power relationship between people directly impacted by poverty and other actors: institution representatives, politicians, university researchers and professionals. In order to implement and practice the Merging of Knowledge methodology, there needs to be a series of best practices and ethical frameworks guaranteed in place beforehand. This is what we call “setting the conditions,” a way of working that ensures practices are ethical, respectful, and takes into account the experiential knowledge of marginalized and historically disinvested communities. This process not only builds the capacities of people directly impacted by poverty, but improves the capacities of people and organizations that work with and alongside people directly impacted by poverty, NGO’s, Civil Society, and policy makers alike.

The second tool will be presented by Fundação Antonio Meneghetti which has developed a methodology to implement projects conceived and carried out by university-aged young people in the southernmost state of Brazil, in a region named Recanto Maestro. The experience acquired through a network of public schools in twelve cities and by working with the more than four thousand young students participating in thirty two projects show that this generation suffered a lot with regards to their capability to express themselves and to acquire knowledge in a presential way. Through means of innovative pedagogical methodology combined with the principles of ontopsychological pedagogy, the fondation has worked to develop hard and soft skills, as well as self-skills of students and teachers, trying to reach a fast recovery. The idea for this learning session is to exemplify this methodology through local projects that may be replicated worldwide. Two main founding principles of these projects that will be presented. The first one is that these projects are developed based on the tastes and interests of young people in each region. That is why we have designed different projects such as: literature, information technology, sports, audiovisual production, music, fashion, environmental preservation. The second one is the work performed by the foundation to formalize and present the methodology of these projects to the international community.

The way forward can be based on the development of an education for global citizenship and educating young people to become leaders for a sustainable future for all. On a broader level, there needs to be a paradigm shift in determining what actions are taken to ensure equitable, inclusive, and meaningful participation of the communities directly impacted by poverty in the design, implementation, and critical review of policies and solutions. This 2023 SDGs Learning, Training, and Practice session will provide practice guidelines setting the conditions needed to create space where the voice of impacted communities and youth is heard and acknowledged, and share our access to space to the spaces where decisions are being made and implemented.

Presenters:

- Maryann Broxton, Main Representative to the United Nations, International Movement ATD Fourth World and US Coordinator for the Multidimensional Aspect of Poverty participatory research.
- Prof. Clarissa Mazon Miranda and Prof. Ricardo Schaefer, Fundação Antonio Meneghetti

Moderator:

Jean Quinn, Executive Director UNANIMA International, Chair of the NGO Committee on Social Development