

17 October 2013

**Message of H.E. Ambassador John W. Ashe
President of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly,
on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty**

Today, as the world commemorates the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, I call on all countries to actively work to support the world's most vulnerable and to ensure their full participation in building an inclusive post-2015 development agenda.

I fully support this year's theme: Working together towards a world without discrimination: Building on the experience and knowledge of people in extreme poverty. Moreover, I remain firmly committed to encouraging the international community to fulfil its promise to eradicate extreme poverty and to accelerate efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The fight to eradicate poverty should remain a global priority and I hope on this occasion that we can recognize those people living in poverty as key partners in tackling the most difficult of our global development challenges.

Today, as we commemorate the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 1.2 billion people are still living on less than \$1.25 a day. We should never forget that people living in poverty are often the victims of discrimination and injustice. They are frequently caught in a vicious cycle of social exclusion. In our efforts to address their problems, we should not compound this problem.

Thus it is crucial that we hear their voices. In their daily struggles for survival, they have developed a unique expertise. They have demonstrated that they themselves can be powerful actors in our global fight to end poverty.

In setting the stage to define new development goals, we must ensure the full participation of the world's most vulnerable as we seek to promote an ambitious and transformative post-2015 agenda.