

**Nicola Occhiofino:** First of all Good morning to all of you and once again thank you for your intense participation. In this morning session, during the Second White band day of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, we will discuss the following topic: "Against Poverty what to do now?". This topic, in my humble opinion, is one that should be taken into consideration by each and everyone, each and every government and all the forces of change.

According to the 2005 UN's Human Development Report that has already been cited many times today, we can only assert that we are still in the Ice Age of Development. Terrifying numbers, from the inhuman disaster that it describes we can only conclude that it is the future of humanity that is in jeopardy. All this is completely unacceptable, because inviolable is the right to life of every human being. Our time requires a necessary revolution of the minds and of the hearts, a true and radical rethinking of politics at all levels: local, national, European, international and within the UN.

The goals to be reached are clearly indicated by those who truly love justice and peace members, but not only of the Global Call to Action against Poverty, so are the deadlines, the financial means and the political means. We have the resources, we can eradicate poverty and from this Assembly we say "enough", enough with burning enormous amounts of money for arms. This money we should use for works of life, this means bread, water, work, culture, dignity, justice and peace. To reach such civic goals, especially in the outskirts of the world, we need to clearly appeal to the sense of thought, to be able to defeat once and for all the craziness of arms.

Paraphrasing the Russian writer, Fedor Dostoesvskij we can assert that our ideals are stronger than the so called unjust's realism, that is without values, because our choices feed on concrete projects, that we need to support with our continuous mobilisation. In this historical phase, we need to start the spring of justice and peace in the world.

To show us the way, there is a priest of poor people, already mentioned during this assembly, Don Tonino Bello, that said: "Have courage prophets of the spring, the earth not to shiver needs blankets of hope". In this direction we must work this morning, think more and then we need to act without delay.