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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Written statement* submitted by Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[18 February 2008]

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- This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Capacity building is the creation of an enabling environment with appropriate policy and legal frameworks, institutional development, including community participation, human resources development and strengthening of managerial systems. It considers different activities which strengthen the knowledge, abilities, skills and behaviour of individuals and improve institutional structures and processes such that the organization can efficiently meet its mission and goals in a sustainable way.

The Earth Summit recognized capacity-building as one of the means of implementation for Agenda 21. In that sense, it is relevant to all chapters of Agenda 21. However, Chapter 37 of Agenda 21 gives particular focus to national mechanisms and international cooperation for capacity-building in developing countries. Importance is given to defining country needs and priorities in sustainable development through an ongoing participatory process and, in so doing, to strengthening human resource and institutional capabilities.

In a country scale, it refers mostly to the term of development and its obstacles. So it seems if any capacity building & technical assistances were to be effective, collaboration between right to development, capacity building and field operation is essential.

Alongside this we must pay an accurate attention to root causes of the situations which make technical assistance necessary: lack of sound and good governance, corruption, conflict, marginalization, lack of proper access to political and civil rights, and economic, social and cultural rights, impunity, lack of access to information, weak institutions, poverty resulting from inequality, democratic deficit, and discrimination are potential areas where we can find the real causes.

With regard to this important role, capacity building measures and any technical assistance should empower the target countries by constructing infrastructures in social, cultural and economical life, and help them to increase their capacity in simplifying and widely disseminating education as the main instrument in capacity building measures.

Capacity building has a crucial role in making and promoting peace. It has a potential power to eradicate the causes of poverty, injustice and misery by promoting knowledge, awareness and understanding of people in target area.

National human rights institutions and nongovernmental organizations can play a crucial role in this regard, especially in the form of technical cooperation and capacity building for the judiciary, prosecutors, police, security forces, granting operating funds, granting management development funds, providing training and development sessions, providing coaching, supporting collaboration with other nonprofits, etc.

The Organization for Defending Victims of Violence (ODVV) believes that Capacity building is an element that gives fluidity, flexibility and functionality of a program/organization to adapt to changing needs of the population that is served and should be noticed that it is a long-term, continuing process, in which all stakeholders participate. Therefore we stress on the important role of the human rights council to elaborate these notions and make them effective and impartial.