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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. American Conservative Union

Special, 2007

Introduction

The American Conservative Union believes that the Constitution of the United States of America is the best political charter yet created by men for governing themselves and that the Constitution is designed to guarantee the free exercise of the inherent rights of the individual through strictly limiting the power of government.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Founded in 1964, the organization represents the views of Americans who are concerned with economic growth through lower taxes and reduced government spending and the issues of liberty, personal responsibility, traditional values and national security.

As America's conservative voice, it is the leading entity in providing conservative positions on issues to Congress, administration officials, state governments, the media, political candidates and the public.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The American Conservative Union has long had a deep interest and concern pertaining to issues that impact personal liberty. Included in the organization's purview are issues regarding women and children, as well as issues where rights granted by the United States Constitution are under debate.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization's main delegate to the United Nations participated in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee related to the drafting of an arms trade treaty, the third and fourth biennial meetings of States on small arms and light weapons and the meetings of the First Committee held in 2010.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The American Conservative Union is always available to provide service to the United Nations, in particular to the Economic and Social Council.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The American Conservative Union is supportive of the Millennium Development Goals where they are in cooperation with its statement of principles and its Sharon statement.

Additional information

There is no additional information.

2. Asia Pacific Women's Watch

Special, 2007

Introduction

The Asia Pacific Women's Watch is a regional network of women's groups that monitors and collaborates with the United Nations, national Governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in empowering women and advancing their human rights. It is represented by five subregions, Central Asia, East Asia, the Pacific, South Asia and South-East Asia, and is also joined by representatives of each of the three major international women's networks: Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, ISIS International and the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women.

Aims and purposes of the organization

With the mission to promoting gender equality, development and peace, the organization aims to monitor and lobby for the inclusion of Asian-Pacific women's perspectives in international documents and processes; promote gender mainstreaming in all decision-making structures; disseminate information on good practices and lessons learned in advancing the status of women; build capacity in communication technologies, media strategies and lobbying; enhance women's leadership and decision-making in peacemaking; advocate to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women; encourage sustainable rights-based development; and strive for economic justice for women.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2010, with the appointment of a new Chair, Sepali Kottegoda (Sri Lanka), and Vice Chair, Carole Shaw (Australia), the organization's secretariat was transferred from Tokyo to Colombo.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has hosted several regional workshops and forums that have fed directly into United Nations meetings and NGO forums including on strengthening United Nations/NGO cooperation and promoting gender equality in the Asian-Pacific region (2007); gender and public policies in the Asian-Pacific region (2009); understanding the media for advancing feminist advocacy on the elimination of violence against women and children (2009); the gendered dimensions of armed conflict (2010); gender and climate change in the Asian-Pacific region (2010); and the non-formal economic activities of women living in conflict-affected areas. It also participated in the Asia Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing+15 on the theme "Weaving wisdom, confronting crises and forging the future" (2009).

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

2007-2010. Representatives participated in the fiftieth to fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, where they made statements on behalf of the Asia Pacific Caucus. The representatives also attended meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in which country reports were discussed.

2009. Representatives of the organization participated in a forum on the status of women, held in Bangkok in October 2009.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization received financial assistance from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for representatives to attend the fiftieth to fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and to participate at a meeting held in Dhaka in 2010 to commemorate the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization worked on the state of indicators for linking gender equality with the Goals in select South-East Asian countries (2007).

Additional information

Organizations represented in the Steering Committee of Asia Pacific Women's Watch, such as Southeast Asia Women's Watch, Japan Women's Watch and South Asia Women's Watch, are involved in periodic assessments and research on monitoring implementation of Goals, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other United Nations conventions and frameworks in the countries of the respective regions. Member organizations of the Steering Committee also closely work with regional organizations such as International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific and the Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women.

3. Asian Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development

Special, 1991

Introduction

Founded in 1979, Asian Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development is a regional association of 20 national and regional NGOs in Asia actively engaged in food security, agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture and rural development activities through policy debates and field programmes.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The vision of the organization is to foster vibrant, peaceful and diverse Asian rural communities that live in harmony with nature as stewards of the earth and whose members are able to realize their full human potential, collectively chart their path to development, provide for their present and future needs and equitably share the fruits of their labours in community celebrations of life. The mission of the organization is to catalyse, consolidate and enhance the energies and capacities of Asian NGOs in addressing issues and reforming the institutions that impact them.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The programmes of the Asian Non-Governmental Organizations Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development revolve around poverty reduction, enhancing household food security through policy dialogues and enhancing the capacities of NGOs and rural communities. The organization conducted country studies and training programmes, including for other NGOs and government representatives, on agrarian reform, sustainable agriculture and local governance. Regional workshops on women's access to land, on land grabbing and food security were also organized, bringing together civil society organizations, NGOs, intergovernmental organizations and government representatives.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the global, regional conferences and national dialogues of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Committee on World Food Security. It also participated in meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in 2012. The organization acted as a resource for the eighth annual meeting of United Nations and international civil society organizations focal points, jointly organized by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service and the Asian Development Bank.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization's initiatives are geared towards contributing to the realization of Goals 1, 7 and 8 through policy work, capacity-building and opening/enhancing mechanisms for effective participation by individuals on such issues. It hosts a regional campaign on land reform and is currently the regional convener of the Asian Alliance Against Hunger and Malnutrition.

4. Caribbean Medical Association

Special, 1999

Introduction

The Caribbean Medical Association has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization undertook several international activities that contributed to the work of the Council and the United Nations, as follows:

- Hosting of an annual medical congress focusing on aspects to develop better health for the population.
- Hosting of an annual congress on the theme "The 120 Years Club".

The congresses comprised gatherings of medical doctors, nurses, health technicians, secretaries and delegates not only from the Caribbean area but also from all over the world.

The items on the agendas of the congresses have concerned the participation of health personnel in natural disasters, the elderly and principal health problems.

Cooperative exchanges have been held with other Caribbean organizations and organizations from other regions to promote the Cuban experience, including in endeavours to create biotechnological Cuban products.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization did not have the economic support necessary to facilitate participation in any meetings.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization's cooperation with United Nations bodies, in particular the Pan American Health Organization, has supported the work of the United Nations.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization did not work directly on implementation of all the Goals, but it worked actively to achieve Goals 3, 4, 5 and 6.

5. Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development India

Special, 1999

Introduction

Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development India was established in April 1993 by a group of environment and development activists, inspired by the response to the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. The organization became more aware about the gravity of environmental degradation and the need to work to protect "mother earth". Its vision is of an alternative model for development that is economically, socially, politically, environmentally and culturally sustainable and that provides the basic needs for all those upholding the values of equality, justice and integrity.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization focused mainly on Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, which focuses on ensuring environmental sustainability.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the regional implementation meeting for Asia and the Pacific of the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in Jakarta on 26 and 27 November 2007.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization participated in a national consultation and planning workshop on Millennium Development Goals monitoring in India, held in New Delhi on 29 and 30 September 2008. Organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the purpose of the consultation was to examine existing monitoring methodologies of citizens and civil society in order to prepare a practical approach to monitoring and a composite framework for monitoring progress in the implementation of the Goals at the subnational level.

The organization also attended an international conference on the theme “Global partnership for development: where do we stand and where to go”, which focused on Goal 8 and was organized by Consumer Unity and Trust Society International in New Delhi on 12 and 13 August 2008.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

- The Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Government of India has selected the organization as one of the partnering organizations in the implementation of the national environment awareness campaign since 2006.
- The organization participated in the first awareness event on solid waste management, organized on 20 April 2007 at Kottayam, Kerala, India.
- The organization organized a nature trail in Kumarakom, Kerala, on 29 March 2008 that included travel by boat in the backwaters of the area in order to promote awareness about and provide training in the identification of flora and fauna for preparation of a biodiversity register.
- The organization organized a workshop for children on climate change at a seminary high school in Kottayam on 11 February 2009. Fifty-two students were selected to attend the workshop.
- The organization also organized a seminar on climate change at the University College of Teacher Education in Elanthoor, Kerala, on 9 February 2010.

6. Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre

Special, 2007

Introduction

The Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre in Nigeria is an independent, non-governmental and not-for-profit organization established in 1996 and registered under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990. It works to protect and promote human rights and women’s human rights and the strengthening of civil society. It is also committed to the institutionalization of good governance, gender equality and the rule of law in Nigeria. Its vision is of a world in which human rights are guaranteed, protected and enforced on the basis of equality and non-discrimination.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization was established to protect and promote human rights and women's human rights and strengthen civil society. It is also committed to the institutionalization of good governance, gender equality and the rule of law in Nigeria.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre is at the forefront of efforts to implement United Nations treaties.

For example, the organization facilitated the formation of the National Coalition on Affirmative Action and is its national coordinator. The coalition has been working to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and, in partnership with the Coalition, has been working on domesticating the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at the federal level and the passage in 15 states of the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill supporting implementation of the Convention. The organization became affiliated with a gender affirmative action issue-based project, which advocates passage of a bill combating violence against women.

The Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre also participated in advocacy efforts to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Together with another African NGO, HURINET, it represents Africa on the Coalition for the International Criminal Court.

It is a founding member of the Nigeria Coalition for the International Criminal Court and is on its executive board. The Nigeria Coalition for the International Criminal Court seeks to domesticate and popularize the Rome Statute in Nigeria, to bring national laws in line with its provisions and to organize programmes to support the work of the International Criminal Court.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization was represented at an expert group meeting on good practices in legislation to combat violence against women, held in Vienna from 26 to 28 May 2008. It attended the strategy meetings of the International Criminal Court, held in The Hague from 21 to 27 March 2009 and was on the panel at the consultative conference of the International Criminal Court. It was also represented in 2010 at the 15-year review conference on implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

UNDP partnered with the organization in a project on the theme "Bridges to end violence against women as a strategy for HIV prevention and stigma reduction".

The organization collaborated with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to ensure the passage of the Child's Rights Act (which domesticated the Convention on the Rights of the Child). In that joint effort, the organization drafted the Child's

Rights bill for the 10 states of zone A of the UNICEF field office. It has been passed into law in all but one of the states.

The organization collaborated with, and received support from, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in respect of a project concerning women's property and inheritance rights in the context of HIV/AIDS. The project aimed to assist women living with HIV/AIDS and service providers in increasing women's access to services.

The organization was also supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in respect of legislative advocacy for the passage of the Anti-Stigma Bill in Ebonyi state.

The organization collaborated with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to organize a training programme for paralegals in 2009.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization has been partnering with other organizations to integrate reproductive rights in the curriculum of the faculties of law in Nigerian universities. It has been implementing an ongoing project on promoting human and women's rights, gender equality and good governance in Nigeria.

7. Community-Based Rehabilitation Network (South Asia)

Special, 2007

Introduction

The Community-Based Rehabilitation Network (South Asia) is an international movement working towards building a strong collaborative network of governments, civil society organizations (including NGOs, disabled persons organizations and community-based organizations) and universities working in the disability sector to promote community-based rehabilitation and education programmes for persons with disabilities (including special education), equity for women with disabilities and the mainstreaming of disability issues into development programmes.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's network of activities are primarily needs based. Its major activities include its partnerships, publications, and policy and advocacy efforts; technology development; inclusive education; self-help groups for women with disabilities; self-help groups for families with a member having a disability; self-help groups for senior citizens; international human resources development programmes carried out in collaboration with universities; and developing disability rights charters.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization became a member of the Global Partnership for Disability and Development, and its Regional Adviser was elected to the Board of the Partnership. The organization also opened up a branch in Afghanistan.

The organization's charter was redrafted in the light of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in order to develop a rights-based vision for promoting inclusive societies in South Asia. Mandatory registration of people with disabilities at the village level was developed through action research.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization contributed to having the Convention translated into nine South Asian languages. An audible version was developed for use by people with seeing difficulties. A manual on community-based rehabilitation was developed to guide Governments and civil societies towards mainstreaming disability issues in rights-based development programmes in South Asia.

An international online training programme and an inclusive education programme were conducted by the organization, reaching over 400 people from 17 countries.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in Council meetings in New York in 2010.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization works closely with the Global Partnership for Disability and Development created by a World Bank trust fund.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The village disability register and civil society census is taken up by the organization in collaboration with Government organizations. The main purpose of the initiative is to include disability issues at the level of local governments in all mainstream development programmes. The register builds a systematic profile of local governments responsible for implementation of the Goals at the grass-roots level and builds a service providers database and a disability database that include needs and rights assessments.

8. Concern Worldwide US

Special, 2007

Introduction

Concern Worldwide US is the United States affiliate of Concern Worldwide and is the representative to the United Nations for the international network of Concern Worldwide.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Concern Worldwide is a non-denominational, voluntary organization committed to the relief, assistance and advancement of peoples in need in less developed areas of the world, while concentrating on the poorest people in its countries of operation.

Its mission is to help people living in absolute poverty to achieve major and lasting improvements in their lives, without ongoing support from Concern.

Significant changes in the organization

Concern Worldwide has seen a significant increase in funding over the past four years. This has resulted in an increase in the size of the organization and in human resources.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Concern is an active member of a number of humanitarian country teams and is active in cluster coordination in relevant sectors at the country level, including but not limited to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the 2010 flooding in Pakistan, the current Horn of Africa food security crisis and ongoing emergency programming efforts in Chad and the Sudan.

The organization is currently providing humanitarian relief and long-term development programming in 25 of the most vulnerable countries in the world, reaching over 9 million persons per year with benefits. It works in close collaboration with a variety of United Nations actors including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the World Food Programme, UNICEF, the Human Rights Council and UNDP.

Collaboration includes the provision of teacher training and supplies, camp management in emergencies, water and sanitation programming, social protection projects, nutrition interventions and protection-related programming.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization attended meetings of the following entities, among others, during the reporting period:

- Saving Lives Together Task Force Conference, held in Geneva in October 2009
- Committee on World Food Security, held in Rome in 2009 and 2010
- High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, held in New York in September 2010
- High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, held in Dublin in May 2010
- Central Emergency Response Fund, held in 2009
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, held in New York on a monthly basis in 2008 and 2009
- Working group of the Interagency Standing Committee, held in Geneva in 2010.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization's cooperation with United Nations bodies included collaborating with the following entities:

- UNICEF on a project to improve the health and survival of women and children in Sunamjanj District, Bangladesh 2010
- UNDP on a project to provide water and sanitation programming in Katanga, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2010
- UNICEF on a project on childhood nutrition in Karamoja, Uganda, 2010
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee on the six-month evaluation report on Haiti in July 2010
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to provide emergency assistance to Chad, ongoing since 2007
- UNHCR to provide camp management in UmShalaya, the Sudan, from 2008 to 2010
- UNHCR to provide non-food items in the Kulbus and Krenick localities of West Darfur in 2008
- UNDP to provide recovery and rehabilitation programming in Aweil East and West counties of Southern Sudan, 2007-2008
- UNICEF to provide nutrition programming in urban areas of Kenya, 2008-2010
- UNICEF to provide transitional learning centres in Haiti, 2010.

9. DEVNET Association

General, 1995

Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization

DEVNET works to create, promote and support partnerships and exchanges among civil society organizations, local authorities and entrepreneurs throughout the world in support of economic development, social equity, ecological sustainability, gender equality, natural disaster resilience and peace.

It has been active in the following main sectors:

- **Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises.** The organization has assisted in the development of technological and trade information systems to create new opportunities for development and business among firms in developing countries. The spread of information and communications technology systems has directly affected the competitiveness, growth and profitability of companies based in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. To date, an estimated 300,000 small and medium-sized enterprises in these regions have directly or indirectly benefited from the activities of the technological and trade information promotion system executed by DEVNET.
- **Capacity-building for development.** The organization has assisted people from developing countries in building core capabilities to find themselves in a better position to succeed in the workplace or to start up their own businesses, such as through information and communications technology training

programmes in the form of both physical and virtual multicultural learning environments/classrooms run by experienced trainers.

- **Reducing gender inequalities.** The organization worked to boost the social and economic empowerment of women in developing countries in order to reduce gender inequalities. It has been very active in this sector during the past decade, particularly in Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America, where it has been working for the development of business channels for women and a better integration of women into the global economy, identifying opportunities to increase their access to labour, credit and new markets; for example, worldwide there are now some 17,000 women, mainly from the marginalized sectors of society in Africa, Asia and Latin America, who have directly benefited from the activities of the WINNER Programme executed by DEVNET.

Significant changes in the organization

With the growth of the Internet, DEVNET has been shifting from information provision to training and creating opportunities for the creation of a new class of entrepreneur. It is now aiming to support small and medium-sized enterprises in the field of green technology. Given its unique position in China, where it had its own pavilion during the 2010 World Expo held in Shanghai, China, it intends to play a special role in a five-year plan for the introduction and application of green technology

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Over the past two decades, in cooperation with agencies of the United Nations system and the European Commission and in partnership with nearly 200 international/regional/national organizations throughout the world, DEVNET has implemented activities to promote the social and economic development of countries in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, and Latin America.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

In 2008, the organization participated in the General Assembly's debate on the financial crisis; the meeting on the theme "Equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care-giving in the context of HIV/AIDS"; and in activities organized for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. In 2009, the organization participated in a wrap-up meeting for the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women; a meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development; and a meeting on the global impact of migration on older women.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization cooperated with the secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme forum on disaster risk reduction held in Shanghai from 28 to 31 July 2010.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

DEVNET focused on efforts to promote actions towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly those that relate to eliminating poverty and achieving social inclusion and sustainable development in Latin America, Asia and Africa.

As a consequence of the actions implemented by the WINNER project, major improvements were realized in the activities of women. These included not only the development of women's enterprises but also improvements in the social status and economic situation of women running the enterprises.

As a result of the WINNER Programme, some of the women were trained to develop their self-esteem as individuals and their self-confidence as managers/owners of their enterprises. For other women, there is further need to continue developing their entrepreneurial skills in order to survive the competition in the marketplace. All the activities are aimed at improving the role of women in the family and the status and responsibility of women in society.

Additional information

The DEVNET Pavilion at the 2010 World Expo obtained a high rating from the organizing committee on the basis of content, number of visitors, activities undertaken as well as comments and feedback from visitors.

10. Economists for Peace and Security

Special, 1995

Introduction

Economists for Peace and Security works to promote non-military solutions to world challenges, and more broadly to work towards freedom from fear and want for all. It is headquartered in New York, has affiliates in 17 countries and members in more than 50 countries.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization recognizes that the inherent dignity and equal rights of all members of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world and that everyone is entitled to the economic, social, cultural and security rights indispensable for human dignity and the free development of personality.

In the context of war and violent conflict disrupting the social and economic fabric of societies and interfering with the well-being of individuals, of economic policies and institutions either preventing or mitigating violence or contributing to it and of the organization's belief that its discipline has a positive contribution to make to peace and human welfare, the organization seeks:

(a) To create and promote a better understanding and a more friendly relationship between races, nations and classes of people; to foster a desire for universal perpetual peace on the part of the nations of the world; to promote the movement for world disarmament, nuclear disarmament and a reduction in the

stockpiling of weapons by all countries; to support efforts to create economic incentives for peaceful relations; to promote collective approaches to conflict and security problems; to encourage the submission of international disputes to negotiation, arbitration and judicial settlement by the United Nations or other multinational institutions for the settlement of controversies;

(b) To engage in programmes of education, relating to the above purposes; to join in partnership with economists and others to increase public understanding and to educate policymakers and citizen advocates that nuclear and other weapons represent a threat to the existence of human life and civilization, and that disarmament and development are interdependent goals; and to promote greater understanding of the full range of economic causes, costs and consequences of violent conflict;

(c) To undertake rigorous economic analysis and to present just, peaceful policy alternatives; to organize meetings and seminars, publish articles, exchange opinions with scholars, and government and non-government representatives, and to cooperate with like-minded organizations in other professions.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization furthered the work of the United Nations by attending meetings of the American Economics Association, including in 2007, on the economics of ending wars, and on women and war; in 2008, on the plight of the soldier and on climate change and Hurricane Katrina; in 2009, on global security and the global financial system; and in 2010, on the past, present and future global financial crises and on planning and designing a sustainable future. It also attended sessions of the Eastern Economics Association, including in 2007, on the economics of war and peace; and in 2008, on the privatization of war and conflict. In 2010, it attended a meeting of the Western Economics Association on climate change, security and prosperity.

The organization also contributed research to the Global Peace Index of 2009 and 2010.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization participated in non-governmental organization committees on disarmament, human rights, social development, education, sustainable development and ageing.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

During the reporting period, the organization's newsletter featured articles on the following issues: water (2007), conflict prevention, resolution and transformation (2008), conflict and entrepreneurship (2009) and jobs, investment and energy (2010).

11. Euromontana

Special, 2007

Introduction

Euromontana is the European multisectoral association for cooperation and development of mountain territories. It embraces regional and national mountain organizations throughout greater Europe, including regional development agencies, local authorities, agriculture organizations, environmental agencies, forestry organizations and research institutes.

Its membership comprises about 70 organizations across 15 countries.

This diversity enriches the Euromontana reflection on the sustainable development of mountain areas and lively exchanges of experience/information within the network.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Euromontana's mission is to promote living mountains, integrated and sustainable development and the quality of life in mountain areas.

In order to achieve this, Euromontana facilitates the exchange of information and experience among these areas by organizing seminars and major conferences, by conducting and collaborating in studies, by developing, managing and participating in European projects and by working with the European institutions on mountain issues.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Euromontana actively promoted among its members the need for contributions to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) consultative process, and provided contributions in this regard.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization's representative attended various meetings on sustainable agriculture and rural development in mountain regions, organized by FAO in Rome in 2009. It also attended a seminar held in Vienna on 18 and 19 May 2009 to discuss the results of the 15 April 2009 report entitled "How to best remunerate mountain rural people for their provision of positive externalities: lessons from different case studies throughout Europe and relevance for mountain regions of South-East Europe and Carpathians".

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Euromontana is a member of the International Mountain Partnership created at the initiative of FAO at the end of the International Year of the Mountains in 2002. It is a voluntary alliance of partners dedicated to improving the lives of mountain people and protecting mountain environments around the world.

12. European Centre for Law and Justice

Special, 2007

Introduction

The European Centre for Law and Justice is an international, non-governmental organization dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights in Europe and worldwide. In addition to being affiliated with the American Center for Law and Justice in the United States and the Slavic Centre for Law and Justice in the Russian Federation, the organization is now also affiliated with the African Centre for Law and Justice in Zimbabwe, the East-African Centre for Law and Justice in Kenya and the Centre for Law and Justice in Pakistan.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization participated in the universal periodic review, submitting country reports on Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, India, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey.

It submitted petitions and contributed to the following within the special procedures mechanism:

- 2008 report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief regarding religious freedom issues in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, submitted for a fact-finding visit.
- 2008 report on religious persecution issues in India, submitted for a fact-finding visit.
- 2009 petition concerning violent and unprosecuted acts against the Pakistani Christian minority, and the need to repeal or change blasphemy laws.
- 2010 petition on behalf of *Mohamed Bishoy Hegazy v. Egypt*, supporting his right to choose his religious affiliation and to have State-recognized conversion in Egypt.
- 2009 communication to the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression concerning Iran's violations of the human rights of citizens protesting the election.
- 2009 petition concerning Iran's arbitrary detention and citizen abuse and non-cooperation with special rapporteurs.
- 2011 communication submitted urging the release of Youcef Nadarkhani, sentenced to death for apostasy.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives attended the following sessions of the Human Rights Council during the reporting period:

- Fifteenth session, on the universal periodic review of Turkey.

- Ninth and twelfth sessions, to discuss the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, in particular the serious implications of Islamophobia and its impact on the rights enjoyed by followers of Islam.
- Eighth session, on the universal periodic review of Pakistan, to discuss the incompatibility of anti-blasphemy legislation with human rights, as well as the universal periodic review of Algeria to discuss Christian persecution.
- Sixth session, to discuss violations of the right to freedom of religion of Christian minorities in the occupied Palestinian territories, as well as to discuss the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The organization submitted written statements to the Human Rights Council during the following sessions:

- Thirteenth session, addressing Human Rights Council resolution S-9/1 on the human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories.
- Sixth session, addressing international legal protection of the right to choose one's religion and to change one's religious affiliation, and addressing the promotion of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Assisted the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief by organizing meetings in the field during fact-finding visits.

In 2008, representatives of the organization participated in a seminar on defamation of religions organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In 2010, in preparation for the 2011 expert workshops on the prohibition of incitement to national, racial, or religious hatred, the organization discussed the law of the Council of Europe under the European Convention on Human Rights and highlighted relevant constitutional, legislative, and judicial practices. In 2008, it assisted in explaining the primary focus of the Human Rights Council resolution on combating defamation of religions.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization supported implementation of the Goals by advocating the rule of law, liberty, the values of tolerance, pluralism, and freedom of religion, conscience and expression.

13. Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants

Special, 1983

Introduction

Established in 1975, the Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants is a representative body of 49 associations of former international civil servants of the United Nations system of organizations located worldwide.

Aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action

It promotes the purposes, principles, programmes and achievements of the United Nations system and primarily defends the interests of the community of former international civil servants through, inter alia, cooperation with the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund and participation in the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board and its subsidiary bodies.

Significant changes in the organization

Twelve associations have joined the organization since 2008, expanding its reach in developing countries.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Through the advocacy and promotion activities of its member associations in support of the work of the United Nations, the organization contributed as follows:

- Publicized the latest developments at the global level, including progress in implementation of the Goals, through periodicals, newsletters and websites.
- Convened study groups, panels and seminars, resulting in publications covering global issues.
- Transmitted shared knowledge/past experiences to staff in United Nations system.
- Collaborated with other non-governmental organizations in promoting ageing and gender issues.
- Organized a panel for International Women's Day in Paris in 2008 on women in international relations.
- Organized a group to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Namibia's independence and the United Nations role in that regard.
- Visited the China Rehabilitation and Research Center for Deaf Children, providing generous support.
- Attended World Urban Forum III, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2009, and succeeded in having the issue of the inclusion of older persons and their needs for human settlement services included in the final document.
- Provided humanitarian assistance in efforts to combat drug abuse and alcoholism, to support human settlements and to provide foster parenting for two children affected by the 2005 tsunami, skills training and a scholarship for international studies.
- Organized meetings in Geneva and Mexico in 2010 on older persons and on promoting better nutrition for a better quality of life, respectively.
- Offered to mobilize volunteers for United Nations emergency efforts to assist Haiti after the 2009 earthquake; the organization received commendations for this activity from various United Nations officials, including the Secretary-General.
- Collaborated yearly with the pre-retirement seminars provided by the Office of Human Resources of the Secretariat.

- Contributed yearly inputs for the annual letter of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund to all participants and beneficiaries.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization:

- Regularly attended/participated in meetings of the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna on the Millennium Development Goals, gender, ageing, sustainable development, human settlements, human rights, climate change, HIV/AIDS and non-governmental organizations;
- Participated in the yearly session of the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, its Standing Committee, Working Groups and Audit Committee, the Federation of International Civil Service Associations, the International Civil Service Commission and the Coordinating Committee of International Staff Unions;
- Submitted a joint statement in 2009 on gender equality to the Human Rights Council's general segment on economic, social and cultural rights;
- Participated in the 2009 regional caucuses of the Commission on the Status of Women, promoting inclusion of the elderly in the agreed conclusions.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization collaborated with the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund secretariat, the United Nations Insurance and Disbursement Service on after-service health insurance and the high-level insurance committee. It also worked closely with the Non-Governmental Relations Section of the Department of Public Information to promote the work of the United Nations. It made financial contributions to United Nations entities for humanitarian crises, particularly after severe natural disasters, and collected clothing, blankets, shoes, toys and books for refugee camps, with the support of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and UNHCR. Given their experience/expertise/language skills, United Nations entities often request the organization's members to volunteer in activities, including public speaking, mentoring, training, and participants registration at meetings.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

Through the newsletters/publications of its members, the organization continually publicizes United Nations efforts in achieving the Goals, encouraging their support at the local, national and international levels. As part of its advocacy activities, member associations promoted and observed a number of commemorative events, including United Nations Day, Human Rights Day, International Day of Older Persons, International Women's Day, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, World AIDS Day, World Habitat Day, International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Additional information

Because of its familiarity with the United Nations system, the organization plays a unique role in the international community, serving as institutional memory, as a

global network encouraging support for the United Nations and as an innovative force. Members teach international affairs at universities, brief United Nations delegates, lecture on health and a vast variety of topics, and promote a stronger and better United Nations system.

14. Focus on the Family Association (Canada)

Special, 2003

Introduction

The goal of Focus on the Family Association (Canada) is to help families thrive. While most of its work is aimed domestically within Canada, it recognizes that the issue of the family is international in scope and as such it works with international partners to support families globally.

Aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action

Focus on the Family Association (Canada) exists to provide a voice for all Canadian families on issues affecting family rights and independence. It is an organization founded on the Judeo-Christian principles of society and believes that both families and individuals have the right to choose their own destiny. As such, the organization provides educational resources that relate to the economic and social rights of families in Canada and serves as a national advocate for those rights.

The organization is also an advocate for the dignity of the human person and the right of individuals to choose their own destiny in terms of educational, economic and social rights.

Significant changes in the organization

Since 2006, when the organization launched a policy research division called the Institute of Marriage and Family Canada, with a focus on researching family-related issues, it has focused on presenting credible, research-based evidence to support mom-and-dad marriage and family life to Governments, the media and all Canadians.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In March 2008, a representative of the Institute of Marriage and Family Canada participated in sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Budgetary restrictions have not permitted formal participation in recent meetings of the United Nations.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization has regularly followed the work and reports brought forward by the United Nations.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

Recognizing the positive contribution that strong healthy families make towards reducing poverty, improving educational attainment, providing safe environments and encouraging healthy outcomes, the organization continued to research and advocate for policies and behaviours that lead to strong healthy families in Canada, and through its global affiliations, around the world. This has been accomplished through public awareness campaigns, appearances before committees of the Government of Canada, international meetings on information-sharing, educational programmes, events and resources aimed at parents, radio broadcasts and websites.

The organization has implemented and promoted a programme, Kids of Integrity, which provides a set of free resources designed to help coach and encourage children to have confidence and a clear sense of personal and ethical direction.

The organization appeared before the Government of Canada to successfully advocate for an increase in the age of sexual consent from 14 to 16 years of age, to report on the role of parents in the discipline of their children and to report on the state of childcare in Canada and its impacts on Canadian families.

The organization has advocated for changes to Canada's taxation policies as this pertains to families. This communication programme has been ongoing for the past four years and has now resulted in the Government agreeing to bring it forward in 2015.

The organization has regularly met with international agencies to discuss the state of social justice issues (poverty, education, housing, employment) in an effort to better understand these issues and seek solutions that may be applied to Canada.

Additional information

There is no additional information.

15. Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society

Special, 2003

Introduction

The Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society is a non-profit research centre located in Rockford, Illinois, United States. It believes that the natural family is the fundamental unit of society and focuses on research and analysis on the meaning of that claim.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In its work at sessions of the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development, the organization collaborated with delegates and several other groups to promote

pro-family policies and language. In the meetings, it was able to have a significant impact on the outcome document. Most notably, in the agreed conclusions of the session of the Commission on the Status of Women, it was able to encourage language supportive of the family. It also submitted a statement to the Commission on the Status of Women, urging that the welfare of the girl child be considered in the larger context of the family.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization participated in sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Population and Development, the Commission for Social Development (New York) and the Human Rights Council (Geneva), working with ambassadors and delegates by providing input and resources, as requested, on a multiplicity of policies and issues to strengthen and protect families, children and women and to promote the family as the fundamental unit of society.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization held two side events, including a presentation on motherhood and a screening of *The New Economic Reality: Demographic Winter*. It also personally delivered family policy resources (including an African pro-family resource guide).

In 2008, during the commemorative activities of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the organization promoted the issue of the family and created and provided to key delegates and to the head of UNICEF, resource materials encouraging the protection and promotion of the family.

It also worked with African delegations on family-strengthening policies within individual countries. It worked with and provided resources to African leaders and organizations to encourage the creation and implementation of national policies in African capitals to strengthen the family, including providing input on the new Kenyan constitution, both before and after adoption.

Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals

The organization is in the process of completing a 320-page publication entitled, "The family and the Millennium Development Goals: using family capital to achieve the Millennium Development Goals". The publication is funded by the Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development and will be introduced at the 2012 session of the Commission for Social Development.

Additional information

The Howard Center is also involved in issues related to sustainable development and will be participating in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) process, with an emphasis on providing practical solutions for smallholder family farms in the process of alleviating rural poverty.