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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
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**SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS**

**OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS**

**United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery**

**Report of the Secretary-General\***

**Summary**

The present report contains the recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at its eleventh session, held in Geneva from 30 January to 3 February 2006, which were approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General on 13 February 2006. These include new travel and project grants for 2006, as well as recommendations concerning fundraising, public awareness, a global review of the work of the Fund and other matters. It updates the reports of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixty-first session (E/CN.4/2005/86) and to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session (A/60/273).

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\* The present report contains information on the eleventh session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, which was held from 30 January to 3 February 2006.

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## I. FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE FUND

1. According to information received from the administration of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the programme planning and budget section of the United Nations Office at Geneva, at the beginning of the eleventh session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (the Fund), the sum of US\$ 729,701 was available from new contributions paid since the tenth session (see annex I) as well as the unspent balance from previous years.

## II. ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2. The eleventh session of the Board of Trustees was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 30 January to 3 February 2006. The meeting was opened by the Coordinator of the Indigenous and Minorities Unit, Mr. Julian Burger, on behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

3. The five Board members who have been appointed by the Secretary-General are: Mr. José de Souza Martins (Brazil), Ms. Prateep Unsongtham Hata (Thailand), Mr. Cheikh Saad-Bouh Kamara (Mauritania), Ms. Gulnara Shahinian (Armenia), and Mr. David Weissbrodt (United States of America). Mr. de Souza Martins was not able to attend the session. Mr. Kamara was re-elected as the Chairman.

4. The Board held 10 meetings during which it examined information prepared by the secretariat concerning the financial situation of the Fund, fundraising efforts, applications for new travel and project grants, the implementation of recommendations adopted at its tenth session, the implementation of the recommendations approved from 2001 to 2005, including project and travel grants, and the development of policies for future grant activities.

5. On Thursday 2 February, the Board of Trustees held its annual meeting with representatives of donor Governments, other donors and interested Governments.

6. Under the agenda item devoted to the developments in the United Nations system concerning relevant mandates, the Board met with the Secretary of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery as well as a representative of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, and was briefed on the recent work of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The Board also heard a presentation by a representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) who spoke on the Global Report *A global alliance against forced labour* and other ILO activities in the field of forced labour.

7. The Board also met with the Coordinator of the Indigenous and Minorities Unit, and discussed the future direction of the Fund in light of recent changes in the field of human rights at the United Nations, such as the establishment of a Human Rights Council and the OHCHR Strategic Management Plan, with its emphasis on country engagement.

### **Review of travel grants approved in 2005**

8. The Board reviewed the participation of the beneficiaries of travel grants who attended the thirtieth session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in 2005 and noted with satisfaction that all seven participants were able to attend the meetings and actively participate in the Group's deliberations.

9. The Board was briefed on the session. It noted the invitation of the Working Group to the Fund to continue to contribute to projects, implemented on the grass-roots level, that directly assist victims of contemporary forms of slavery and to promote the participation at the annual sessions of the Working Group of individuals and organizations from as large a number of countries as possible, taking into account the thematic focus of each session.

### **Consideration of new applications for travel grants to participate in the thirty-first session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery**

10. The Board examined 27 applications for travel grants amounting to approximately US\$ 46,305 from non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives, including victims of contemporary forms of slavery in 11 countries.

11. The Board noted that the thematic focus of the Working Group at its thirty-first session will be the human rights dimensions of prostitution, and the need to strengthen international cooperation to suppress transfers of profits from the exploitation of the prostitution of others and trafficking in persons (see Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights resolution E/CN.4/Sub.2/2005/L.39).

12. The Board recommended that the secretariat of the Working Group continue to be invited to inform the Board at its annual session about priority areas that the Working Group will identify, so that the Board can take them into consideration in its selection of applications for travel grants, and to discuss areas of possible cooperation.

13. In light of the selection criteria the Board recommended 12 travel grants for an estimated amount of US\$ 20,740 (see chart of travel grants attached as annex II). Provided that conditions attached to the grant have been met, all travel grants should be paid in ample time before the next session of the Working Group, which is scheduled to take place in June 2006. The beneficiaries will present the situation of contemporary forms of slavery in their different countries; and will bring the first-hand testimony of former victims of slavery to the Working Group, and also to the wider international community.

14. The Board emphasized the importance of the gender dimension as well as national and regional distribution when considering applications for travel grants.

15. The Board recommended that travel costs be authorized to enable the Chairperson or another member of the Board to participate in the thirty-first session of the Working Group scheduled to be held in June 2006 in Geneva. The Board member will introduce the report on the Fund under the relevant agenda item, and meet the beneficiaries of travel grants attending the session and introduce them to the Working Group.

### **Review of project grants approved in 2001-2005**

16. The Board reviewed the narrative and financial reports on the use of project grants paid from 2001 to 2005 and adopted relevant recommendations. Within this context, the Board recommended closing the file on 21 projects, as those organizations had provided satisfactory narrative and financial reports on the use of grants, and keeping 31 project files open pending additional information from organizations. In some cases, the Board recommended that the secretariat request OHCHR field presences or the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assist in the follow-up and in evaluating the projects.

17. The Board took into account that because of the delay in the 2005 grant cycle in connection with the appointment of new Board members, it was not possible for all beneficiaries to provide final narrative and financial reports by the deadline. A number of beneficiaries submitted preliminary reports for consideration so that the Board of Trustees could be informed of progress on the grants.

18. The Board noted with satisfaction that, during the year, the UNDP office in Uganda had carried out an evaluation visit to a project that was subsidized by the Fund in that country.

### **Recommendations for new project grants in 2006**

19. The Board examined 89 applications for project grants amounting to approximately US\$ 1,026,445. Applications were received from the following continents and countries: Africa (25): Burkina Faso (1), Democratic Republic of the Congo (4), Ghana (1), Guinea (1), Kenya (3), Mauritania (1), Niger (2), Nigeria (2), Sudan (1), Uganda (7), Zambia (2); the Americas (8): Argentina (1), Canada (1), Colombia (1), Costa Rica (2), Guatemala (1), Haiti (1), United States of America (1); Asia (50): Cambodia (4), India (40), Nepal (2), Pakistan (4); Europe (6): Georgia (1), Romania (1), Russia Federation (2), Spain (1), Turkey (1).

20. In light of the selection criteria, the Board of Trustees recommended 47 project grants for a total amount of US\$ 590,300 which will assist NGOs in 22 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe (see chart of project grants attached as annex III).

21. The Board took into account the importance of the gender dimension as well as national and regional distribution when considering applications for project grants. It appears that well over half the individuals benefited by the project grants are women.

### **Awareness-raising**

22. The Board welcomed the production of an information booklet on the Fund. The Board recommended that it continue to be disseminated widely, including through the website, and in particular in affected areas that have had a low rate of applications in the past.

23. The Board welcomed the production of a film by the field office of OHCHR in the Democratic Republic of the Congo based on the story of one of the beneficiaries of the Fund, and encouraged this type of production to be undertaken in other parts of the world.

24. The Board recommended that the secretariat and members of the Board collect and make available documentary materials, including materials collected during project evaluation missions, on the work of the Fund, such as photographs, videos and stories of real people who have benefited from the Fund, to give a human face to its work. The Board recommended that the secretariat explore the possibility of producing a short documentary film, in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Public Information or with outside partners.

25. The Board also recommended revising OHCHR fact sheet No. 14, *Contemporary Forms of Slavery*, in order to include a reference to the activities of the Fund and Board.

26. The Board recommended issuing a statement on the occasion of the United Nations International Day for the Abolition of Slavery (2 December), if possible together with other relevant United Nations organs. The Board also encouraged NGOs, individuals and schools to organize parallel activities during the day. The Board emphasized the importance of the media in disseminating the statement.

27. The Board recommended undertaking activities to mark the two hundredth anniversary of the end of the transatlantic slave trade, together with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other relevant partners.

### **Global review of the Fund**

28. The Board recommended that a global review of the work of the Fund be undertaken. This review should draw on the recent experience of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, taking into account the differences both in the nature of the work and the size of the Fund.

29. The Board stressed that the funding for this exercise should not come out of the budget for its substantive work, and called upon States and other donors to contribute dedicated funds for this purpose.

### **Fund-raising**

30. The Board held its annual meeting with regular and new donor Governments, interested Governments and other donors. The meeting was attended by representatives of 33 States: Angola, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Chile, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Romania, South Africa, Spain, the Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and the Holy See.

31. The Chairman and Board members thanked the participants for their support and reported on the outcome of the selection process at this session. In particular they pointed out that this year, because of the increased financial support from donors, the Fund is expected to

be able to provide direct help to some 4,000 victims through travel and project grants to around 50 organizations in 23 countries in Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. Ninety-five per cent of the allocated funds go to projects.

32. A number of donors expressed their support for the Fund and its unique work providing direct assistance to victims. The representative of the Netherlands expressed the country's interest in a global review of the Fund, as well as its willingness to grant extra resources for that specific purpose. The representative of the Holy See recalled the personal interest that Pope John Paul II had taken in the Fund, and stated that the annual symbolic contribution that he had begun would continue.

### **III. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

33. The Board recommended, on an exceptional basis, allocating up to 20 per cent of the project budget to project grants and emergency grants during the intersessional period, and informing OHCHR, UNDP and ILO field offices that it will be able to receive such applications from interested NGOs that are established channels of assistance.

34. The Board stressed the importance of evaluation and monitoring and recommended that the Board members and the secretariat of the Fund undertake project evaluation visits within their geographical regions, and to report on these visits at its next session. When possible, Board members and the secretariat should also endeavour to visit projects in conjunction with their other official travel.

35. The Board recommended informing UNDP field offices of any planned evaluation missions, and to use these visits for outreach to organizations, particularly in affected areas that have had low numbers of applications.

36. The Board recommended that the secretariat liaise with the secretariat of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture with regard to the development and use of project management and database software.

37. Considering the additional workload due to the substantial increase in both applications received and projects funded, the Board recommended ensuring the provision of adequate professional and general service staff and facilities to service the Fund and Board efficiently, if necessary from programme support costs.

### **IV. NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE TWELFTH SESSION**

38. In the Board's view, in order to be able to satisfy the new applications envisaged for 2007 and fulfil its mandate satisfactorily, and taking into consideration that the Board recommended for expenditure almost all the money available at its eleventh session, the Fund would need new contributions amounting to at least US\$ 1,239,000 before the twelfth session of the Board, scheduled to be held from 12 to 16 February 2007.

## **V. HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND**

39. Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities can contribute to the Fund. Donors should indicate “For the Slavery Fund, account SH” on an payment order. For information on how to contribute, donors are kindly requested to contact the secretariat of the Fund at: Secretariat of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; Telephone: + (41) (22) 917 9381 or 917 9314, Fax: + (41) (22) 917 9006.

## **VI. RECOMMENDATIONS**

40. **All the above reflects the recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees at its eleventh session and approved by the High Commissioner on behalf of the Secretary-General on 13 February 2006.**

**Annex I****CONTRIBUTIONS AVAILABLE AT THE ELEVENTH SESSION  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES<sup>a</sup>**

State/non-governmental organizations, other private or public entities, individuals	Contribution in US\$	Paid on	Contribution No.
Brazil	10 000	23.12.2005	5
Canada	112 557	02.09.2005	1
Chile	1 000	13.06.2005	2
Finland	118 537	05.09.2005	1
France	64 683.05	29.04.2005	7
Greece	24 038.46	14.10.2005	2
India	5 000.00	02.06.2005	1
Japan	25 000	06.01.2006	7
Luxembourg	91 463	19.09.2005	2
"	18 029	03.10.2005	3
Netherlands	323 529	16.12.2005	7
South Africa	7 513.53	15.06.2005	6
Thailand	5 000	09.01.2006	1
Instituto Tecnico Comm. Statale (Oscar Romero)	1 108.39	03.02.2005	12
"	544.42	26.04.2005	13
Yorio Shiokawa	416.67	28.04.2005	11
David Weissbrodt	500	29.06.2005	1
Students of BLLF Apna-school, Pakistan	90	20.06.2005	1
Total: US\$ 809 010			

<sup>a</sup> Based on information available at OHCHR/GE as at 31 December 2005.

**Annex II****TRAVEL GRANTS RECOMMENDED AT THE ELEVENTH SESSION<sup>a</sup>**

Organization	Country	Participants <sup>b</sup>	Theme to be discussed at the Working Group
<b>AFRICA</b>			
Organisation pour la Prévention du Travail des Enfants au Niger (OPTEN-YARA)	Niger	1 M	Prostitution and trafficking in children in Niger
Association Timidria (Fraternité-Solidarité)	Niger	1 M 1 F	The phenomenon of the fifth wife slave
Ligue des Droits et Libertés	Cameroon	1 M 1 F	Domestic slavery of young girls
Oeuvres Sociales pour le Développement (OSD)	Democratic Republic of the Congo	1 F	Babies abandoned at birth by their mothers; combating the sale of babies and the exploitation of prostitution
<b>AMERICAS</b>			
Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil para la Reinserción Escolar (ETIPRE)	Argentina	2 F	Street children who are vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation
<b>ASIA</b>			
Social Economic Assistance for Rural and City Habitants (SEARCH)	India	1 F	The sale of men and women for prostitution
Sarvadeshik Arya Yuwak	India	1 M	Child marriage, child labour, child pornography and trafficking
<b>EUROPE</b>			
The Human Resource Development Foundation	Turkey	2 F	Combating human trafficking

<sup>a</sup> Beneficiaries are entitled to a return airfare and a stipend of 175 Sw F per day of attendance and two extra days for travel.

<sup>b</sup> (F) means a female and (M) a male applicant.

**Annex III****PROJECT GRANTS RECOMMENDED AT THE ELEVENTH SESSION**

ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY	TITLE OF PROJECT OR ASPECT COVERED	AMOUNT APPROVED (US\$)
Groupe de recherche-action pour un développement endogène de la femme rurale du Burkina (GRADE-FRB)	Burkina Faso	Centre Wend Zoodo	15 000
Oeuvres sociales pour le développement (OSD)	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Care for abandoned infants and efforts to stop illicit trade in them (ongoing project supported by the VF)	9 700
Action contre l'exploitation des enfants et des femmes (ACEEF)	Republic of Guinea	Assistance to 50 trafficked children in the five communes of Conakry	14 200
SOS Esclaves	Mauritania	Project to improve the socio-economic circumstances of poor communities, victims of the consequences of slavery	6 000
Association Timidria (Fraternité-Solidarité)	Niger	Request for humanitarian assistance for 30 freed slavery victims	15 000
Jadakris	Nigeria	Rehabilitation and reintegration of young women, victims of trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery in Buguma, Nigeria	12 400
Niger Delta Environment and Relief Foundation (NIDEREF)	Nigeria	Rehabilitation of female victims of trafficking and slavery in the Niger Delta Region of Nigeria	10 800
Toposa Development Association	Sudan	Child Protection Initiative (CPI)	15 000
Kabagahi Trinity Association	Uganda	Direct support to sexually exploited women project	9 600
ALIGUMA	Uganda	Centre for support of exploited victims	5 000
Musinguzi Foundation	Uganda	Human rights advocacy project	11 000
Erradicación del Trabajo Infantil para la Reinserción Escolar (ETIPRE)	Argentina	For a childhood that makes full use of its rights, experiences all-round development and better quality of life	15 000
Fundación ESPERANZA	Colombia	Legal and social consultation for migrants and potential migrants	15 000
Alianza Por Tus Derechos	Costa Rica	Temporary psychological and legal protection for minors, victims of commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking	14 200
Defence for Children International, Costa Rica section (DNI-Costa Rica)	Costa Rica	Guide for assisting in the prevention and protection of child and adolescent domestic workers of both sexes	14 500

ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY	TITLE OF PROJECT OR ASPECT COVERED	AMOUNT APPROVED (US\$)
Les trois quarts du monde (TQM), France	Guatemala	Learn to read and write instead of prostitution; support for two hostels, training and rehabilitation for girl street children in Guatemala	15 000
Terre des hommes, Switzerland	Haiti	Haiti - child domestic workers ("restaveks")	15 000
Virakpheap Komar Pailin	Cambodia	Enrolling child labourers to school project	8 900
People's Health Organization for Development	Cambodia	Child labour billboard advertising	5 900
Curie Educational Society	India	Empowerment of Basavins through Liberation Education Programme	13 770
Don Bosco Navajeevan Bala Bhavan	India	Supplementary nutrition programme for street and working children at Don Bosco Navajeevan, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India	15 000
Rural Development Society (RDS)	India	Development of child labour rehabilitation programme at RS Kondapuram	15 000
Development of Underprivileged Through Integrated Economical Services (DUTIES)	India	Rearing of ram lambs scheme for the sustainable development of Mathangi women victimized by cultural slavery	14 700
Sri Chandra Keshava Prasanna Jana Chaitanya Integrated Rural Development Society	India	Rehabilitation of women bonded labourers and child labourers in the rural areas	4 800
Initiative for Social Change and Action (ISCA)	India	Providing livelihood opportunities and education alternatives for orphan and bonded child labourers released from contemporary forms of slavery in Chakwaza, Vaishali District of Bihar State in India	10 500
SEARCH	India	Human Rights Campaign for Eunuchs (ongoing project)	13 500
Society for Disabled and Depressed	India	Sustainable development of poor slavery tribals through honey picking programme	6 400
Jhansi Mahila Mandali	India	Rehabilitation from beggary and slavery of poor children including the disabled	14 800
Voice Voluntary Organization in Community Education	India	Protection of women's human rights in the rural areas	5 000

ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY	TITLE OF PROJECT OR ASPECT COVERED	AMOUNT APPROVED (US\$)
Sri K. Pitchi Reddy Educational Society	India	Protection and development from traditional sexual slavery of minor girls to the community people	15 000
Kurnool Diocese Social Service Society (KDSSS)	India	Elimination of child slavery/labour through universalization of elementary education in 21 villages of Atmakur Mandal, Kurnool District	15 000
Arya Samaj for Bonded Labour - Child Labour Front	India	Assistance to victims of bonded child labour and awareness campaigns on the right to education and gender equity	15 000
The Mariapuram Don Bosco Society	India	A ray of hope for the children in despair	15 000
Don Bosco Technical School	India	A ray of hope for the children at risk	6 500
Bhavitha	India	Liberation towards a new life	14 900
Vedika: a platform for women	India	Hope for life	15 000
Children-Women in Social Service and Human Rights (CWISH)	Nepal	Actions to end child servitude - II	14 900
Agroforestry Basic Health and Cooperatives (ABC) Nepal	Nepal	Rehabilitation programme for survivors of trafficking, conflict, domestic violence and other (2-year project)	15 000
Identity, Merge and Action (AIM)	Pakistan	Rehabilitation of children working in hazardous conditions	14 900
Bonded Labour Liberation Front of Pakistan (BLLF Trust)	Pakistan	Freedom through education	15 000
Association of Network for Community Empowerment (ANCE)	Pakistan	Education and health programme for brick kiln workers and children	15 000
Insan Dost Association	Pakistan	Non-formal education project for working children	15 000
World Vision International	Georgia	Coming from the street	15 000
World Vision International	Romania	Feed the child's soul and body	15 000
Perm Center Against Violence and Human Trafficking	Russia	Supporting the implementation of the national mechanism for referral of victims of human trafficking	8 400

ORGANIZATION	COUNTRY	TITLE OF PROJECT OR ASPECT COVERED	AMOUNT APPROVED (US\$)
Adoratrices-Proyecto Esperanza	Spain	Integrated reception programme for women victims of human trafficking for exploitative purposes	10 000
The Human Resource Development Foundation	Turkey	Providing psychological assistance to victims of trafficking in persons in Turkey	15 000
Total = 47 projects, US\$ 590 300			

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