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**COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on the Promotion and
Protection of Human Rights
Working Group on Contemporary
Forms of Slavery
Thirtieth session
6-10 June 2005
Item 2 of the provisional agenda**

ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

**Report of the tenth session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust
Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery to the 30th session of the
Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery**

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 tenth session, held in Geneva from 7 to 11 March 2005, which were approved by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General on 16 March 2005 concerning: the financial status of the Fund; the review by the Board of the reports by beneficiaries on previous grants paid from 1999 to 2004; new travel and project grants for 2005 and the needs assessment of the Board for 2006.

I. MANDATE OF THE FUND

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991, established the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery with the purpose of extending humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery (project grants) and assisting representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from different regions that deal with issues of contemporary forms of slavery to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery by providing them with financial assistance (travel grants).

Funding is obtained by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, NGOs, other private or public entities and individuals.

II. ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2. In conformity with the above-mentioned resolution, the Fund is administered in accordance with the relevant financial regulations and rules of the United Nations on general trust funds for humanitarian assistance, by the Secretary-General, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), with the advice of a Board of Trustees.

3. The Board is composed of five United Nations experts with relevant experience in the field of human rights and, in particular, of issues of contemporary forms of slavery, serving in their personal capacities. The members are elected for a three-year, once-renewable term, in consultation with the current Chairman of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution. The current board members 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. Kamara was elected by the Board to serve as Chairman.

III. BENEFICIARIES

4. In accordance with the selection criteria adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122, the beneficiaries of assistance from the Fund shall be, in the opinion of the Board: (a) individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery and (b) representatives of NGOs dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery who would not be able to attend the session of the Working Group without the assistance provided by the Fund and who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery.

IV. GRANTS CYCLE

5. The deadline for submitting applications for travel or project grants was 15 September 2004. Admissible applications received were examined by the Board in March 2005. The recommendations for grants adopted by the Board at that session were approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on behalf of the Secretary-General. The grants approved should be paid in April/May 2006. Beneficiaries of travel grants will attend the Working Group, to take place in Geneva in June 2005. Beneficiaries of project grants will have to provide the secretariat of the Fund with narrative and financial reports on the use of their grants before 1 November 2005. Those organizations, which can prove that it is impossible at that time to provide final reports, will have to provide interim reports by 1 November 2005 and final reports by 1 January 2006. Until satisfactory reports on the use of previous grants are received, no new project grant can be paid to these beneficiaries. For a detailed explanation on the grants cycle refer to A/59/150 of 16 August 2004.

FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE FUND

6. According to information received from the OHCHR Administration and Programme Planning and Budget Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva, at the beginning of the tenth session US\$ 321,156 was available from new contributions paid since the ninth session of the Board of Trustees (see annex I) as well as from previous unspent balance.

II. TENTH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

7. The tenth session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was held at Palais Wilson in Geneva from 7 to 11 March 2005. The meeting was opened by the Chief of the Research and Right to Development Branch, Mr. Zdzislaw Kedzia, on behalf of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

8. The five Board members attended the session. They examined, during 10 meetings, information prepared by its secretariat concerning the implementation of recommendations adopted at its ninth session, the financial situation of the Fund, applications for new travel and project grants, the implementation of the recommendations approved from 1999 to 2004 and the development of policies for future grant activities. The Board noted with satisfaction that the Fund had available enough money to cover the approved cost plan for 2005.

9. The Board also met with Mr. Julian Burger, coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Unit, and discussed the possibility of linking activities of the Fund more closely with the Technical Cooperation Unit of the Office and strategies for increasing the impact and sustainability of the grants, such as through providing long-term support.

10. The Board was also briefed by the Resource Mobilization Unit on OHCHR fund-raising policy. On the last day of the session, the Board of Trustees held its annual meeting with representatives of donor Governments and other interested Governments.

11. 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, and heard presentations concerning the OHCHR trafficking project and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children. A representative from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris addressed the Board and provided information on the activities concerning the International Year for the Commemoration of the Struggle Against Slavery and its Abolition proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 57/195 of 18 December 2002. The Board heard a presentation by a representative of the International Labour Organization (ILO) who spoke on the Global Report on Forced Labour and other ILO activities in the field of forced labour.

Review of travel grants approved in 2004

12. The Board reviewed the participation of the beneficiaries of travel grants who attended the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in 2004 and noted with satisfaction their active role in the Group's deliberations.

13. The Board was briefed by the secretariat and by Mr. José de Souza Martins, who attended the Working Group to meet with the beneficiaries and present relevant information on the Fund, on the discussions held at the Working Group. The Board appreciated the support shown by the Working Group to their activities.

14. The Board recommended that the travel grant for the beneficiary that could not attend the 2004 session of the Working Group, namely the individual representative from Burkina Faso, be kept pending for their participation at the 2005 session of the Working Group.

Consideration of new applications for travel grants to participate in the thirtieth session of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in 2004

15. The Board examined 12 applications for travel grants amounting to approximately US\$ 25,292 from NGO representatives, including victims of contemporary forms of slavery in 6 countries.

16. The Board noted that the Working Group during its thirtieth session will assess its activities since its creation and will focus on a review of the ratification of the relevant treaties and the identification of crucial gaps and challenges remaining in the areas covered by its mandate. 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.

17. The Board emphasized that it always takes into consideration a gender dimension as well as national and regional distribution when considering applications and when revising the application forms and guidelines of the Board and Fund.

18. In light of the selection criteria the Board recommended seven travel grants for an estimated amount of approximately US\$ 14,800 (see annex II). Provided that conditions attached to the grant have been met, all travel grants should be paid before the next session of the Working Group which is scheduled to take place from 6 to 10 June 2005. The beneficiaries will present the situation of contemporary forms of slavery in 6 different countries; one of the beneficiaries will bring his first hand testimony as former victim of slavery.

19. The Board recommended that travel costs be authorized to enable the Chairperson or another member of the Board to participate in the thirtieth session of the Working Group from 6 to 10 June 2005 in Geneva. The Board member will introduce the report on the Fund under the relevant agenda item, as well as meet and introduce to the Working Group the beneficiaries of travel grants attending the session. The Board suggested that, if possible, there should be a rotation of the members of the Board that attend the Working Group.

Review of project grants approved in 1999 to 2004

20. The Board reviewed the narrative and financial reports on the use of project grants paid from 1999 to 2004 and adopted relevant recommendations. Within this context, the Board recommended to close the file for 22 projects as organizations had provided satisfactory narrative and financial reports on the use of grants and keep 28 project files open to request additional information from the organizations. In some cases, the Board recommended that the secretariat request OHCHR field

presences or United Nations Development Programme to assist in the follow-up and in evaluating the projects.

21. The Board noted with satisfaction that during the year, Mr. de Souza Martins had carried out a project evaluation mission to Concepción, Chile, to visit a project that was subsidized by the Fund in 2004.

Recommendations for new project grants in 2005

22. The Board examined 63 applications for project grants amounting to approximately US\$ 696,057. Applications were received from the following continents and countries: Africa (15): Democratic Republic of the Congo (6), Kenya (1), Nigeria (3), Rwanda (1) Togo (2), Uganda (2), Americas (6): Canada (1), Chile (1), Colombia (1), Guatemala (1), Haiti (1), United States of America (1); Asia (38): Bangladesh (3), Cambodia (4), India (25), Nepal (1), Pakistan (4), Philippines (1); Europe (4): Russian Federation (4).

23. In light of the selection criteria, the Board of Trustees recommended 25 project grants for a total amount of US\$ 215,330 which will assist NGOs in 15 countries in Africa, America, Asia and Europe.

24. In accordance with United Nations rules and regulations governing general trust funds for humanitarian assistance, 13 per cent of the estimated annual expenditures in 2005 had to be set aside for programme support costs related to the servicing of the Fund and 15 per cent of estimated annual expenditures also had to be set aside as a reserve for 2006, in case no new contributions would be received.

Awareness-raising

25. The Board welcomed the production of an information booklet on the Fund, which will be available shortly. Noting that this will be a valuable tool to increase both the quality and the quantity of applications, the Board recommended that it be disseminated widely, in particular in affected areas that have had a low rate of applications in the past.

26. 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, videotapes 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, in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Public Information or with outside partners.

27. The Board reaffirmed the importance of a global report on contemporary forms of slavery, and recommended inviting a representative from ILO to inform the Board on ILO activities in this regard.

28. The Board also recommended revising OHCHR Fact Sheet No. 14 on “Contemporary Forms of Slavery” in order to include a reference to the activities of the Fund and Board.

29. 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 International Day. The Board emphasized the importance of the media in disseminating the statement.

30. The Board reviewed the communications recommendation provided by the External Relations Unit of OHCHR and invited that Unit to further elaborate and implement them.

Fund-raising

31. The Board held its annual meeting with regular and new donor Governments and other interested Governments on 11 March 2005. The meeting was attended by representatives of Armenia, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus, Finland, France, Greece, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America and Venezuela. A representative of the donor NGO, Schools Together, also attended the meeting.

32. The representative of the Netherlands indicated the intention of his Government to continue to contribute to the fund in the future. A number of other Governments expressed their interest in the Fund, including Armenia, Chile, Thailand and the United States of America. The representative of the Holy See assured the Board of its continued support and of the importance it attaches to the Fund's work. The Board expressed appreciation for the donors' contributions to the Fund.

III. Needs assessment for the Eleventh session in 2006

33. In the Board's view, in order to be able to satisfy the new applications envisaged for 2005 and fulfil its mandate satisfactorily, and taking also into consideration that the Board recommended for expenditure almost all money available at its ninth session, the Fund would need new contributions amounting to at least US\$ 473,700 before the 11th session of the Board in 2006.

IV. How to contribute to the Fund

34. Voluntary contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery may be made:

- (a) By bank transfer to the "United Nations Geneva General Fund":
 - (i) In United States dollars:
c/o UBS AG, P.O. Box 2770, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Account number: 240-C0590160.1, Swift address: UBSWCHZH12A
 - (ii) In other currencies:
c/o UBS AG, P.O. Box 2770, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Account number: 240-C0590160.0, Swift address: UBSWCHZH12A.
- (b) By cheque, to the order of the "United Nations": to be addressed to The Treasurer, United Nations, United Nations Office at Geneva, Palais des Nations, CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

35. Donors should indicate “For the Slavery Fund, account SH” on any payment order.
36. To enable the secretariat to follow up and inform the Board of Trustees, the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the Working Group, donors wishing to make a voluntary contribution to the Fund are invited to inform its secretariat of their payment 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 91 64, + (41) (22) 917 9145, Facsimile: + (41) (22) 917 90 17.

Other Recommendations

37. The Board recommended that within proper limits provisions should continue to be made in the cost plan for 2006 in order to enable members of the Board or the secretariat to visit and evaluate projects supported by the Fund, within their geographical region for a better evaluation of the work carried out and planned. A report of these visits should be prepared by the Board or secretariat member and made available to the Board at its next session.
38. The Board recommended to revise Guideline III of the Fund to read as follows:
- “On an exceptional basis, organizations and other established channels of assistance can submit an application for emergency assistance during the intersessional period for projects which provide direct humanitarian, legal and financial assistance to victims of contemporary forms of slavery and which are currently subsidized by the Fund which encounter unforeseen financial difficulties such as the considerable influx of victims and not only because it has not obtained other sources of funding for their project. Applications for grants can amount up to US\$5,000. During the intersessional period, the application will be submitted for recommendation to the Chairperson of the Board and the member of the relevant region, or at least one other member of the Board. All other Board members should be notified of the matters pending. The secretariat will report to the Board at its following session. This procedure could be implemented provided that sufficient funding is available at a given session and that a “special emergency grant” budgetary line amounting up to US\$40,000 be recommended to the Secretary-General for approval.”
39. The Board recommended to revise Guideline VI of the Fund to read as follows:
- “International NGOs should be informed that the Board insists that beneficiaries of travel grants should attend all the relevant meetings of the Working Group and should not be encouraged by these international NGOs to attend other meetings instead, except for brief and defined opportunities to make ILO or the ILO Conference aware of the concrete problems faced by individuals at risk of contemporary forms of slavery.”
40. The Board stressed the importance of accurate data and action-oriented research to formulate effective projects and policy, and recommended that consideration be given to funding research projects.
41. The Board recommended that the secretariat explore the possibility of developing a database containing relevant information on grants and beneficiaries.

- 42. The Board recommended organizing a meeting, bringing together the members of the Board, representatives of ILO and the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and other relevant partners, to exchange ideas and to develop common understandings about the problem and the way forward.**
- 43. The secretariat should send to the members of the Board the contact details of beneficiaries of travel and project grants so that they can, if possible, follow up on grants allocated and assist beneficiaries in their geographical region.**
- 44. Considering the additional workload due to the increase of applications received, the Board recommended ensuring the provision of adequate professional and general service staff and facilities to efficiently service the Fund**

ANNEXES**Annex I**

Contributions available at the tenth session of the Board of Trustees

State/ NGOs, other private or public entities and individuals	For the year	Amount in US\$	Paid on	Contribution No.
Cyprus	2005	4 000.00	21.05.04	4
France	2005	36 101.08	27.08.04	6
Greece	2005	12 000.00	09.07.04	1
Holy See	2005	1 500.00	22.12.04	6
Netherlands	2005	232 095.49	08.12.04	6
South Africa	2005	7 214.74	10.03.04	5
United Arab Emirates	2005	29 961.00	25.03.04	1
Venezuela (for years 2001/2002)	2005	10 000.00	03.11.04	1
Students and teachers of the Archway School	2005	910.75	14.07.04	4
St. John Willey (People's Fund for Children)	2005	1 741.52	04.08.04	1
Mr Yorio Shiokawa	2005	312.50	05.04.04	9
Mr. Yorio Shiokawa	2005	260.16	07.09.04	10
Instituto Tecnico Comerciale Romero	2005	796.72	28.04.04	11
TOTAL		336 893.96		

ANNEX II

a) Travel grants recommended at the tenth session^a

Name	Sex	Organization	Country
Africa			
Agatha Kafuko	F	Budiope Welfare Action Initiative	Uganda
Bernadette Tipoko Ouedraogo	F	Groupe de Recherche-Action pour un Développement Endogène de la Femme Rurale du Burkina	Burkina Faso
America			
Jorge Ruben Salazar Vargas	M	Clubes MOANI	Chile
Asia-Pacific			
Alka S. Chandorikar	F	Social Economical Assistance for Rural and City Habitants (SEARCH)	India
B. Anjaneyuku	M	Bonded Labour-Child Labour Front	India
Vithal Rao Arya	M	Bonded Labour-Child Labour Front	India
Europe-Actic			
Galina Kourganova	F	Way of light	Russian Federation

^a Beneficiaries are entitled to a round-trip aeroplane ticket and a stipend of 175 Swiss Francs per day of attendance and two extra days for travel.

ANNEX III

ORGANIZATION and Country	TITLE OF PROJECT OR ASPECT COVERED	AMOUNT APPROVED (US\$)
AFRICA		
Cheng development youth group, Kenya	Civil child network	4 630
Niger Delta Environment and Relief Foundation (NIDEREF), Nigeria	Rehabilitation and reintegration of women victims of trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery in Ogoni	10 000
Budiope Welfare Action Initiative, Uganda	Community Action against Humanity Abuse	12 000
Oevres sociales pour le développement (OSD), Democratic Republic of the Congo	Taking into charge of abandoned babies	9 000
Total grants		35 630
AMERICAS		
New Opportunities for Women, Canada Society, Canada	Healthy living project	5 000
Clubes Juveniles Moani, Chile	Acompañamiento a niños y niñas trabajadores "ANDA"	15 000
Fundación Kootirawa, Colombia	Talleres de sensibilización y fortalecimiento organizativo de 300 mujeres pertenecientes a ocho pueblos indígenas del caribe colombiano y dedicadas al trabajo doméstico en zonas urbanas colombianas.	10 000
Institut National d'Appui et de Promotion à l'Entraide, à la Solidarité et la Coopération pour le Triomphe des Libertés et des Droits de l'Homme, Haiti	Recensement des enfants en situation de Restavek dans la commune des Cayes	12 000
Total grants		42 000
ASIA-PACIFIC		
Interband, Cambodia	Training on Child Labour	4 000
Charitable Development Society of Bangladesh, (CDS), Bangladesh	Survive Slavery Peoples in Madhupur	12 000
Social and Economic Assistance for Rural and City Habitant (SEARCH), India	Human Rights campaign for Maharashtra Eunuchs	6 800
Kathuriba Mahila Mandali, India	Child labour rehabilitation and reformation programme in Markapuram	10 000

ORGANIZATION and Country	TITLE OF PROJECT OR ASPECT COVERED	AMOUNT APPROVED (US\$)
Vedika, India	Hope for Life	10 000
The Kurnool Don Bosco Kurnool Society, India	A ray of hope for the children in despair	10 000
Social Agriculture Children's Education and Women Development Trust (SACEWD), India	Releasing the children from slavery	10 000
Nithya Krushi Rural Development Educational and Health Society, India	Child labour rehabilitation school in Ananthapuram	10 000
Children-Women in Social Service and Human Rights (CWISH), Nepal	Action to end child servitude in Nepal	10 000
Insan Dost Association, Pakistan	Non-formal Educational project	10 000
Lumah Ma Dilaut Center for Living Traditions (affiliate member of the Asian Muslim Action Network in the Philippines- AMANPHIL), Philippines	Piloting a return-resettlement and rehabilitation programme to emancipate the Philippines Sea nomads from enslavement in the exploitative system a.k.a the "Partida"	10 000
Hotline Human Rights Bangladesh	Child Rights and Education	10 000
Mahila Seva Samithi, India	Empowerment of rural poor women through dairy development occupation	2 000
Mahila Seva Samithi, India	Rehabilitation with education and development for poor child labourers	2 000
People Health Organization for Development, Cambodia	Child labour announcements on billboards	5 900
Arya Samaj for Bonded Labour - Child Labour Front, India	Assistance to domestic & bonded child labour victims & Awareness campaign on child marriages, health and right to education	5 000
Total grants		127 700
EUROPE-ARCTIC		
Public Innovation Foundation of Tatarstan, Russia	Kazan Assistance Centre to persons suffering from contemporary forms of slavery	10 000
Total grants		10 000
Total number of grants		215 330
