



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
12 March 2010

Original: English

---

## Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

2010 regular session

26 May-4 June 2010

### **Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

#### Contents

	<i>Page</i>
1. African Business Roundtable . . . . .	2
2. Canadian Council of Churches . . . . .	4
3. Center for Inquiry . . . . .	5
4. Centre for Organisation Research and Education . . . . .	7
5. Eurasian Harm Reduction Network . . . . .	10
6. Centre for Adivasee Studies and Peace . . . . .	12
7. International Center for Clubhouse Development . . . . .	14



## **1. African Business Roundtable**

Special, 2005

### **I. Introduction**

The African Business Roundtable promotes private sector participation in the economic development of African countries and facilitates private-public partnership and involvement in business as global players. Its main actions are carried out through dialogue and active participation in formulating policies conducive to private sector development and sustainable economic growth.

### **II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

#### **A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**

(a) Member of the organizing committee for the event “Bending the Arc”, London, 2005; (b) The President of the organization spoke during the tenth International Business Forum on the theme “The role of the private sector in development”; (c) Sixtieth session of the General Assembly: the President spoke on the theme: “The vital role that business plays in meeting the societal commitment embodied in the Millennium Development Goals”; (d) Meeting of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) at United Nations Headquarters, 2006: the President chaired the meeting with Chair of the NEPAD secretariat and the Executive Director of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships; (e) high-level summit of the Economic and Social Council in July 2006 at United Nations Headquarters: round-table meeting on the challenges of employment creation in Africa and the least developed countries. The President spoke on the theme: “Creating an environment at national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent for work for all and its impact on sustainable development”; (f) International Conference on Financing for Development to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus: the organization was on the steering committee and participated actively during the second International Business Forum held alongside the conference. The President gave an opening address and acted as the moderator of the meeting on “Proposals for building an enabling environment and enhancing donor effectiveness”.

#### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and at Headquarters**

The President spoke at the fourth Africa-Asia Business Forum in 2007, a follow-up event of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development. The organizers were the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and NEPAD.

**C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**

The President was a member of the steering committee of the Food Advisory Council and participated in discussions on how to achieve food and nutrition security.

## **2. Canadian Council of Churches**

Special, 1997

### **I. Introduction**

The Canadian Council of Churches provides a forum for the sharing of information and concerns among people involved in ecumenical work on peace and social justice in Canada and the world, reflecting biblically and theologically on peace and social justice, and facilitating cooperation between churches in the areas of peace and justice. Traditionally, the organization's involvement with United Nations agencies has been in the area of human rights. The Canadian Council of Churches has a long history of advocacy for civil, political, economic, social, cultural, women, indigenous, refugee and children's rights, as well as for the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, and has advocated on behalf of Canadian churches and their partners at a variety of United Nations forums.

### **II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

#### **A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**

Delegates of the Council have participated in the meetings of the Human Rights Commission, world conferences such as the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, including: (a) the sixty-first session of the Human Rights Commission: briefs on the situation in Darfur, Colombia and Timor-Leste and a resolution on impunity were distributed; (b) representatives received accreditation to the session of the Commission on Sustainable Development that met in New York in April 2005; (c) sixty-second session of the Human Rights Commission; (d) fourth special session of the Human Rights Council; (e) seventh session of the Human Rights Council, 2008.

#### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and at Headquarters**

The Council continues to benefit from its special consultative status. Its ongoing participation in United Nations events has been an effective way both to learn from different perspectives and experiences and to advocate for a more just and peaceful world.

#### **C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**

The Council is working on building partnerships for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the coming years.

### **3. Center for Inquiry**

Special, 2005

#### **I. Introduction**

The purpose of the Center for Inquiry is to promote and defend reason, science and freedom of inquiry in all areas of human endeavour. It encourages evidence-based inquiry into science, pseudoscience, medicine and health, religion, ethics, secularism and society. It is not affiliated with nor does it promote any political party or political ideology. Based in the United States of America and maintaining programmes in over a dozen countries, the Center engages in research, publishing, education and advocacy, particularly in the areas of freedom of conscience, belief and expression.

#### **II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

##### **A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**

(a) Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Conference, Paris, 2008: representatives attended and participated in discussions on freedom of expression and universality of human rights; (b) oral statement to the ninth session of the Human Rights Council on “defamation of religions”; (c) “Freedom of expression and the Human Rights Council”, side event for NGOs and delegations organized by the Center in 2008; (d) written submission to the tenth session of the Human Rights Council on “The European Court of Human Rights and the Interpretation of Advocacy of Religious Hatred that Constitutes Incitement to Discrimination, Hostility, or Violence”, March 2009; (e) oral statement to the tenth session of the Human Rights Council on the Durban Review Process, March 2009; (f) joined the NGO Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief (Geneva and New York); (g) attended Department of Public Information NGO briefings at Headquarters in New York.

##### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field or at Headquarters**

(a) Educational cruise to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Site: in preparation for the event, the Center invited the former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to deliver lectures; (b) research on public science literacy: in 2006 the Center began collaboration on a major national survey of Indian scientists’ beliefs about education, society and values (<http://www.worldviewsofscientists.org>); (c) attended and spoke at NGO briefings on the Alliance of Civilizations and released, at the Human Rights Council, a related research paper entitled “Is there a clash of civilizations?”; (d) released a research paper at the ninth session of the Human Rights Council on “Islam and human rights”.

### **C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**

The Center published the following editorials in its United States-based magazine *Free Inquiry* addressing core global principles of equality and the right to economic development, including: “America’s Shame: Neglected Treaties”, “The Industrial-Technological Revolution”, “The Principles of Fairness: Progressive Taxation”, and “Planetary Ethics”.

The Center also became involved in two initiatives to promote stronger American support of the United Nations: the Council of Organizations of the United Nations Association of the United States of America (<http://www.unausa.org>) and the Better World Campaign (<http://www.betterworldcampaign.org>).

## 4. Centre for Organisation Research and Education

### Special, 2005

The goal of the Centre for Organisation Research and Education is “to work towards recognition and respect for the right to a self-determined future, in partnership with the indigenous peoples of India, with respect for our ancient inheritance, building on our faith in humanity’s role of trusteeship of resources, in peace with all other peoples”. Since 2008, the Centre has enlarged its area of operations over the western coastal areas of India as well as the north-eastern region in response to the importance of our work on climate change, which most acutely affects coastal areas.

### I. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

- Fourth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2005
- “Combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance: role of education and awareness raising”, July 2005, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok
- Working Group on Indigenous Populations, July, Geneva
- UNDP consultation meeting, November 2005, Manila
- Working Group on Indigenous Populations, 2006, Geneva
- Sixth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2007
- United Nations Climate Change Conference, Bali, Indonesia, December 2007
- Seminar on participation of indigenous peoples’ organizations at the United Nations, 2007, New York
- Expert panel discussion at the session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 2008
- First session of the Universal Periodic Review, 2007, Geneva
- Seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2008

Statements and actively participated in indigenous caucuses and gender caucuses and at all meetings. In addition, as an active participant in furthering the United Nations agenda, the Centre has carried out the following activities at the national and international levels, presenting papers and technical inputs in support of United Nations goals:

- Executive Director acted as resource person on refugees from Myanmar in Thailand, Chiang Mai University
- Worked with UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNDP and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on health-related concerns and issues related to indigenous peoples, women and children

- Amnesty International, India programme on human rights violations, monitoring and advocacy in the north-eastern region of India
- “Rivers for Life”, the second International Meeting of Dam-Affected People and Their Allies, Thailand
- Land rights of indigenous peoples, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Expert resource person, South Asia Consultation Water Resource Management, Kathmandu
- Report on the situation of children affected by armed conflict in India, December 2004
- Strategies for the prevention of child labour in Asian developing countries, 2005, Wagga-Wagga, Australia
- International Catholic Child Bureau Consultation on Child Rights and Resilience, June 2005, Geneva
- Seventh ethnic community development seminar, July 2005, Bangkok
- Conference on development and aid, August 2005, Bangkok
- First regional leadership course for young leaders, November-December 2005, Thailand
- Australian conference on child abuse and neglect, February 2006, Wellington, New Zealand
- Seminar on women from conflict areas, 2005, Srinagar, India
- Jubilee South Summit, September 2005, Havana
- Indigenous child event, October 2005, Toronto, Canada
- Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, November 2006, Thailand
- Workshop: International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims, September 2006, Dhaka
- Environment seminar on Myanmar: natural resources exploitation, January 2006, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- Orientation planning for indigenous peoples/minorities researchers, July 2006, organized by Forum Asia, Bangkok
- Seminar on transboundary water issues, August 2006, Dhaka
- Asia legal training seminar, August 2006, Dhaka
- “What Next” forum, September 2006, Uppsala, Sweden
- Survey of self-employed women in Imphal
- Joint submission on “Territories, land and natural resources”, submitted in conjunction with the Indian Confederation on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples-North East Zone, 2007
- Seventh Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2008

- Submission on indigenous peoples' rights to the Conference of Parties of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, April 2009
- Eighth Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 2009, statement on agenda item 3: Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum
- The Centre has worked intensively with indigenous organizations and peoples to raise the issue of the rights of indigenous children in collaboration with the Committee on the Rights of the Child
- The Centre celebrates International Women's Day on 8 March annually

The Centre's contribution has been very limited due to the limited availability of funds for work pertaining to indigenous peoples, particularly for indigenous peoples in India.

## **5. Eurasian Harm Reduction Network**

Special, 2005

### **I. Introduction**

The aim of Eurasian Harm Reduction Network is to support, develop and advocate harm reduction approaches in the field of drugs, HIV/AIDS, public health and social exclusion. While the aims, purposes and geographical region covered by the Network remain the same, the name of the organization was changed in 2007 by the decision of the governing body from the Central and Eastern European Harm Reduction Network to the Eurasian Harm Reduction Network, with the goal to better reflect the membership of stakeholders from Central Asia and more precisely reflect its work in 29 countries (the change was introduced in 2008, while officially the organization reregistered by the new name on 1 July 2009). The key purposes of the organization are: (a) developing and sustaining the networking among different stakeholders in order to assist development of responses to HIV/AIDS epidemics, drug use and other related problems, including effective policies and practices; (b) improving the capacity of local non-governmental and governmental organizations to advocate evidence-based approaches and rights of vulnerable groups; (c) helping to raise awareness and link with other existing international networks; and (d) evaluating the efficiency of harm reduction programmes in the region, including publicizing and disseminating the results of these activities to communities, Governments and the international community.

The role of the Network varies throughout the priority areas and covers the following activities areas or programmes: (a) national and regional documentation and advocacy for services and enabling policies; (b) capacity-building and technical assistance (through its harm reduction knowledge hub); (c) information development and networking; (d) human rights of vulnerable groups; (e) special initiatives.

The specific goals of the organization for the period from 2007 to 2009, as adopted during the strategic planning meeting in October 2006, are: (a) to employ less repressive and non-discriminative policies with regard to drug users and other vulnerable groups (including sex workers, prisoners and people living with HIV/AIDS); and (b) to strengthen evidence-based practices and services for vulnerable groups.

### **II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

#### **A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies**

Since the acquisition of special status, representatives of the Network have attended and/or participated in: (a) fifty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna, 2008 (the Network's representative made a statement regarding the thematic debate); (b) 2008 high-level meeting on AIDS, June 2008, United Nations Headquarters; (c) forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions of the Commission on Narcotic

Drugs, Vienna, 2006 and 2007; (d) participation in the “Beyond 2008 Process”, a global NGO forum on the review of the General Assembly special session on illicit drugs, including two regional consultations in October 2007 in Kiev and November 2007 in Belgrade; (e) preparations for the high-level segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (March, 2009) to evaluate the achievement of the Political Declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem (1998).

## **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**

The Network cooperated with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) in activity planning and implementation. Financial support was received from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and WHO, mainly for technical support and capacity-building in harm reduction in the Eurasian region; UNICEF provided a grant for research and documentation of drug use, health and rights on underage and young drug users. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided a grant to address gender in policies and services related to injecting drug users.

## **C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**

The Network links its objectives to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. In its presentations at various national and regional forums the Network reminds members and partners of the links between harm reduction advocacy and the Millennium Development Goals.

## **6. Centre for Adivasee Studies and Peace**

Special, 2001

### **I. Introduction**

The Centre for Adivasee Studies and Peace is an NGO that promotes the human rights of Chenchus, a group of indigenous people in Andhra Pradesh, India. The Centre is registered with a number of Government regulatory bodies to carry out activities in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

### **II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

#### **A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**

The Centre did not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period due to inadequate funds, but expects to raise more funds to expand its activities and to set up an office in New York in order to work more closely with the Council.

The Chair of the Centre was an observer at the meeting of the Clean Technology Fund Trust Fund Committee (World Bank Group) in May 2009 in Washington, D.C.

The Centre has not applied for nor has it received any funds from United Nations subsidiaries in India, but it has contributed to the activities of the United Nations through locally raised funds.

#### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and at Headquarters**

The Centre participated as an observer at conferences and other meetings sponsored by the United Nations system from 2005 to 2008, including the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 2007. In addition, the Centre conducted an indigenous peoples' rights campaign and worked with the indigenous peoples of Andhra Pradesh, in cooperation with the District Medical and Health Officer/Chief Medical Officer, in implementing UNICEF programmes. The Centre also offered its services to self-help groups and health education camps in the region.

#### **C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**

The Centre worked to promote human rights by focusing, inter alia, on the following Millennium Development Goals: **Goal 1:** Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; **Goal 4:** Reduce child mortality; **Goal 5:** Improve maternal health; **Goal 6:** Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; and **Goal 7:** Environmental sustainability encompassing other goals. This work involves: educating women and

adolescent girls about their rights and conducting village-wide training and awareness camps for indigenous peoples; a focus on climate change by providing indigenous peoples with the latest agricultural techniques for forest areas, including education about halting deforestation, the reduction of greenhouse gases and pollution, as well as disseminating the objectives of UNEP. In addition, the Centre runs an outreach programme based on the Millennium Development Goals, which focuses on promoting gender equality, empowering women and ensuring environmental sustainability.

## **7. International Center for Clubhouse Development**

**Special, 2005**

### **I. Introduction**

The International Center for Clubhouse Development is an NGO committed to improving the lives of people living with mental illness (schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, personality and anxiety disorders, etc.). It is the belief of the organization that recovery from mental illness is possible when a person is part of a community that offers hope, respect and opportunities for work, employment, a good home, education and friendship. One of the most powerful and restorative influences on this recovery process is the repeated tangible message of worthiness. This message is communicated through an inclusive, vibrant community that is focused on the potential contribution of all its members.

The organization is committed to the belief that every society in the world has the responsibility to assist its citizens living with mental illness as they seek to achieve a full and purposeful life. The mission of the Center is to help establish clubhouses in every city and town and to coordinate a vital international network that provides training, quality assurance, advocacy, research and encouragement. Clubhouses are places where people who are recovering from mental illness can experience success and reach their full potential in a welcoming, communal environment that offers ongoing access to friendships, education, housing, health care, employment and recovery.

During the reporting period, changes that may have had significant impact on the organization vision and/or functions in terms of its orientation, its programme and the scope of its work, include: (a) an increase in funding revenue from approximately \$1,000,000 in 2005 to \$1,300,000 in 2008 due to the growth in the number of individual donors; (b) the Center has organized a group of 14 partner organizations in Europe to form the European Partnership for Clubhouse Development, which was formally established in 2007 in Stockholm.

The goals of the Center are to: improve the social inclusion, educational and labour market integration and participation of people with mental illness and psychosocial problems in Europe; increase opportunities of mental health service users and ex-users in European countries to participate in empowering and supportive clubhouse communities; strengthen and extend ICCD's network and operations with other European clubhouses and other stakeholders in Europe; and to promote and coordinate the clubhouse model and collect the results for international dissemination.

The Center has added two member clubhouses in Africa (Kenya and Uganda), which, along with an established clubhouse in South Africa and a working group in Ghana, significantly increase its involvement in Africa. As of 2007, there was a working group seeking to establish a clubhouse in Rosario, Argentina, and the Center is presently active on six continents.

## **II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

### **A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**

The Center did not directly participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies or in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period. It focused its activities on the development and implementation of clubhouse programmes and partnerships and on raising public awareness about the serious issue of mental illness. The Center devoted its time to building and educating its international board of directors, strengthening its quality assurance training programmes and developing a global public awareness initiative, which is now funded and under way. The Center is now better positioned to participate in the activities of the Economic and Social Council.

### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters**

The Center has experienced the following ongoing problems: Information about international meetings and conferences is very sparse and generally arrives too late to be included in plans and budgets, and scarce funds and a small staff make attendance at international meetings very difficult. However, with the new European Partnership for Clubhouse Development and steadily increasing funds, it will be able to more fully participate in the United Nations programmes in the future. The Center took part in the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status with the United Nations, although it experienced difficulties in communicating and in receiving timely information about activities and opportunities.

The Center supports the Declaration on Social Development developed by the Commission for Social Development. During the reporting period, the Center and its affiliated clubhouse and training organizations trained more than 400 groups to better serve disadvantaged people with serious mental illness, enabling them to more effectively participate in their local communities. The training programmes took place in the United States of America, Canada, Europe, Asia, Africa, South America and Australia.

Through these training and technical assistance programmes, the employment rate for people with mental illness in the clubhouse system was greater than 40 per cent during the reporting period. This compares to a greater than an 80 per cent unemployment rate for people with mental illness in general.

During the reporting period the Center organized and implemented two international clubhouse seminars, one in Helsinki, in June 2005 (550 participants, 77 workshops, 8 general sessions, 19 countries represented) and one in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in October 2007 (760 participants, 77 workshops, 8 general sessions, 20 countries represented).

### **C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals**

**Goal 1:** Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: the Center increased the number of certified clubhouses in the world for people with mental illness from 130 in 2005 to 150 in 2008. All clubhouses provide low cost or free meals on a daily basis.

**Goal 2:** Achieve universal primary education: all certified clubhouses provide education opportunities to people with serious mental illness. With the increase in the number of clubhouses there is an ongoing increase in the availability of supported education and learning programmes.

**Goal 3:** Promote gender equality and empower women: all clubhouses provide equal opportunities to women and men. There are no distinctions based on gender. With an increase in the number of clubhouses, there are increased opportunities for women. More than half of all active clubhouse members are women.

**Goal 6:** Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: all clubhouses provide basic advocacy and education about HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases. More than 90 per cent of all clubhouses provide “wellness” and “health promotion” activities, programmes and education services. With the life expectancy rate for people with mental illness at about 25 years less on average than the typical person, this has become a major focus of the work of the clubhouses.

**Goal 8:** Develop a global partnership for development: although the Center is a relatively young and small organization it currently has member organizations and development groups in more than 30 countries. All clubhouses and working groups are united by a consensually developed and consensually updated set of international best practice standards that are based on values and principles grounded in the belief that all human life is valuable in and of itself and that each individual has something to contribute no matter how disabled or disadvantaged. Fifteen to twenty clubhouses united by these standards opened annually during the reporting period.

---