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Promotion and protection of human rights: implementation of human rights instruments

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, which is submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution [46/122](#), presents the recommendations for grants to beneficiary organizations that were adopted by the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery at its eighteenth session, held in Geneva from 18 to 22 November 2013. It also provides information on other recommendations adopted by the Board.

* [A/69/150](#).



I. Introduction

A. Submission of the report

1. The present report was prepared in accordance with the arrangements approved by the General Assembly in its resolution [46/122](#), by which it established the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. It presents the recommendations for grants adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Fund at its eighteenth session, held in Geneva from 18 to 22 November 2013. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights approved those recommendations on behalf of the Secretary-General on 10 December 2013.

B. Mandate of the Fund

2. In line with resolution [46/122](#), the Fund was established with the purpose of extending humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery. The Fund receives voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations, private or public entities and individuals.

C. Administration of the Fund and Board of Trustees

3. The Secretary-General administers the Fund through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), with the advice of a Board of Trustees and in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations.

4. The Board of Trustees is composed of five members with relevant experience in the field of human rights and, in particular, in issues of contemporary forms of slavery. They serve in their personal capacity and are appointed by the Secretary-General with due regard to equitable geographical distribution. In January 2014, the Secretary-General renewed the mandates of Ms. Asma Jahangir (Pakistan), Mr. George Omona (Uganda) and Mr. Michael Beresford Dottridge (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) for a final three-year term ending on 31 December 2016. On 10 July 2014, the Secretary-General appointed for a first three-year term, renewable once and ending on 10 July 2017, Mr. Leonardo Sakamoto (Brazil) and Ms. Nevena Vučković-Šahović (Serbia), replacing Ms. Virginia Herrera Murillo (Costa Rica) and Ms. Klara Skrivankova (Czech Republic) respectively.

II. Management of grants

A. Admissibility criteria

5. In accordance with the mandate of the Fund as set out in General Assembly resolution [46/122](#), the beneficiaries of assistance from the Fund are individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery. Project admissibility criteria are outlined in the Fund's guidelines, which were revised at the eighteenth session of the Board of Trustees. Beneficiaries of projects must be victims of contemporary forms of slavery and, when applicable,

members of their families. Contemporary forms of slavery that qualify for project grants include traditional slavery, serfdom, servitude, forced labour, debt bondage, the worst forms of child labour, forced and early marriage, the sale of wives and inherited widows, trafficking in persons and human organs, sexual slavery, the sale of children, the commercial sexual exploitation of children and the use of children in armed conflict.

6. Priority in allocating grants is given to projects aimed at reparation, empowerment and integration of victims of contemporary forms of slavery through the provision of direct assistance. Assistance may include medical, psychological, social, legal, humanitarian and educational assistance, vocational or skills training or other assistance in support of an independent livelihood. Detailed information on the various types of assistance provided through the projects financed by the Fund, as well as their impact on beneficiaries, can be found online at <http://www.ohchr.org/slaveryfund>. New brochures and leaflets on the Fund are displayed there.

7. By 5 April 2013, the deadline for submitting applications for project grants for 2014, the Fund received 112 applications. The admissible applications were examined by the Board of Trustees at its eighteenth session, held from 18 to 22 November 2013. The deadline for submitting applications for project grants for 2015 was 1 March 2014. The admissible applications will be examined by the Board of Trustees at its nineteenth session, to be held in Geneva from 24 to 28 November 2014.

B. Monitoring and evaluation by the Board Secretariat

8. At its eighteenth session, the Board of Trustees was presented with a total number of 81 admissible project proposals for 2014. Sixty-six of these projects had been evaluated in situ prior to the session by the Funds' Secretariat of the Fund and Board members, OHCHR Country and Regional Offices and Human Rights Components of Peacekeeping Missions.

III. Financial situation of the Fund

9. Between 2009 and 2014, as a consequence of the global financial crisis annual voluntary contributions to the Fund decreased by 30 per cent, from \$886,482 in 2009 to \$633,018 in 2013. For 2014, as at 10 July 2014 the Fund had received \$409,913; further donations are expected by the end of 2014.

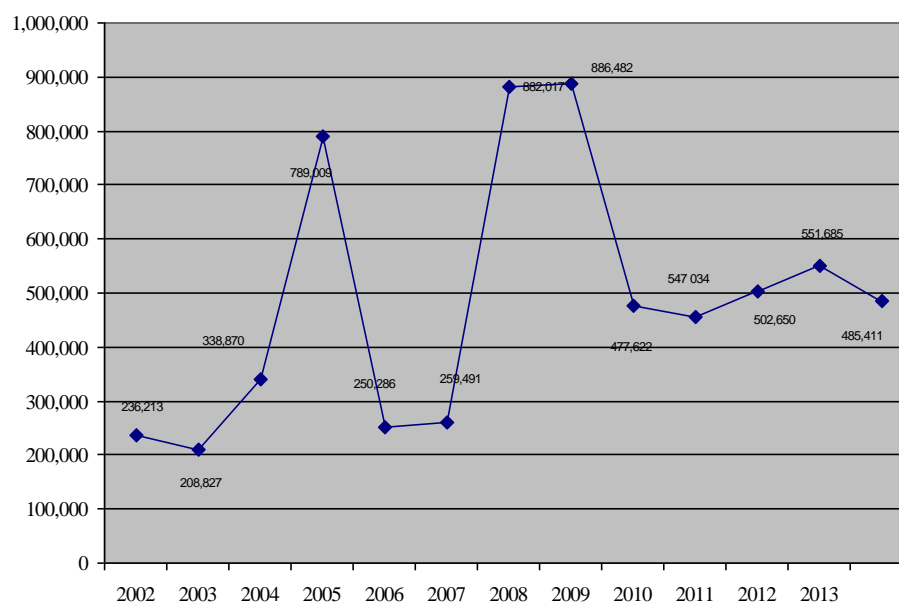
10. The table below shows the contributions and pledges received since the previous report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the activities of the Fund ([A/68/280](#)).

Contributions and pledges received from 13 July 2013 to 10 July 2014

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount (United States dollars)</i>	<i>Date of receipt</i>
United Arab Emirates	30 000	5 June 2014
Turkey	6 000	30 May 2014
United Kingdom	33 057	1 April 2014
Germany	341 997	27 March 2014
Holy See	916	11 March 2014
Spain	48 275	24 January 2014
Turkey	6 000	31 December 2013
Netherlands	125 000	20 December 2013
Israel	5 000	10 December 2013
India	25 000	28 November 2013
Greece	27 137	23 October 2013
Total, as at 10 July 2014	648 382	

11. Figure I shows the trend in the amount of contributions received from 2002 to 2013, by year.

Figure I
Annual contributions, 2002-2013



IV. Eighteenth session of the Board of Trustees

12. The eighteenth session of the Board of Trustees of the Fund was held in Geneva from 18 to 22 November 2013. During the session, the Board held a meeting with Member States. The Board also held meetings with the Deputy United

Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Chief of the External Outreach Service of OHCHR to discuss the critical financial situation and the need to enhance visibility and outreach to showcase the impact of the Fund's work. The Board reported positively on the efforts made by the Funds' secretariat to enhance the management of the Fund and foster greater coordination between the Fund and other human rights mechanisms and activities.

A. Recommendations adopted by the Board of Trustees

13. At the session, the Board of Trustees was presented with 81 admissible applications for project grants amounting to approximately \$1,185,248, which had been evaluated and scored by the secretariat in preparation of the session. The Board decided to focus its review on 57 projects highly recommended for funding and further recommended 35 project grants for a total amount of \$400,000. Through these grants, the Fund is expected to assist non-governmental organizations in 33 countries worldwide: 12 projects in Asia, 9 in Africa, 4 in Eastern Europe, 5 in Latin America and the Caribbean and 5 in the countries of the Western European and other States group. These projects aim to provide redress and rehabilitation services to victims whose human rights were severely violated as a consequence of contemporary forms of slavery, such as the worst forms of child labour, domestic servitude, forced and early marriage, bonded and forced labour, sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons for labour and sexual exploitation.

14. Figures II and III below illustrate the breakdown of the 35 approved grants, by region and by type of contemporary slavery.

Figure II
Grants awarded by region in 2014

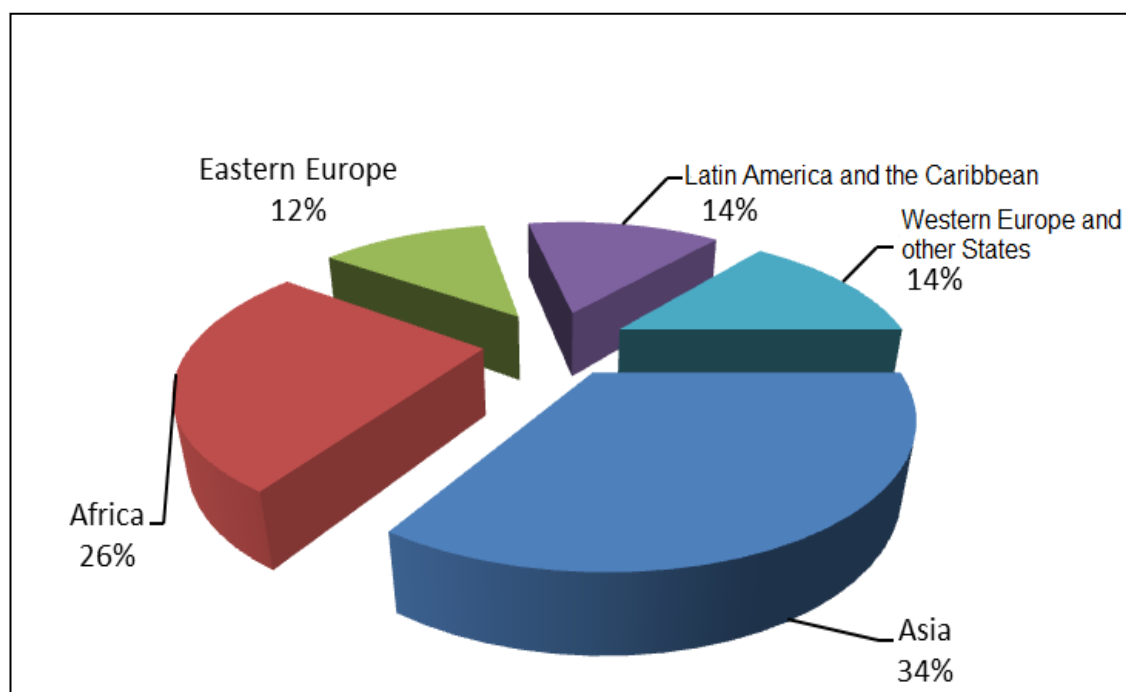
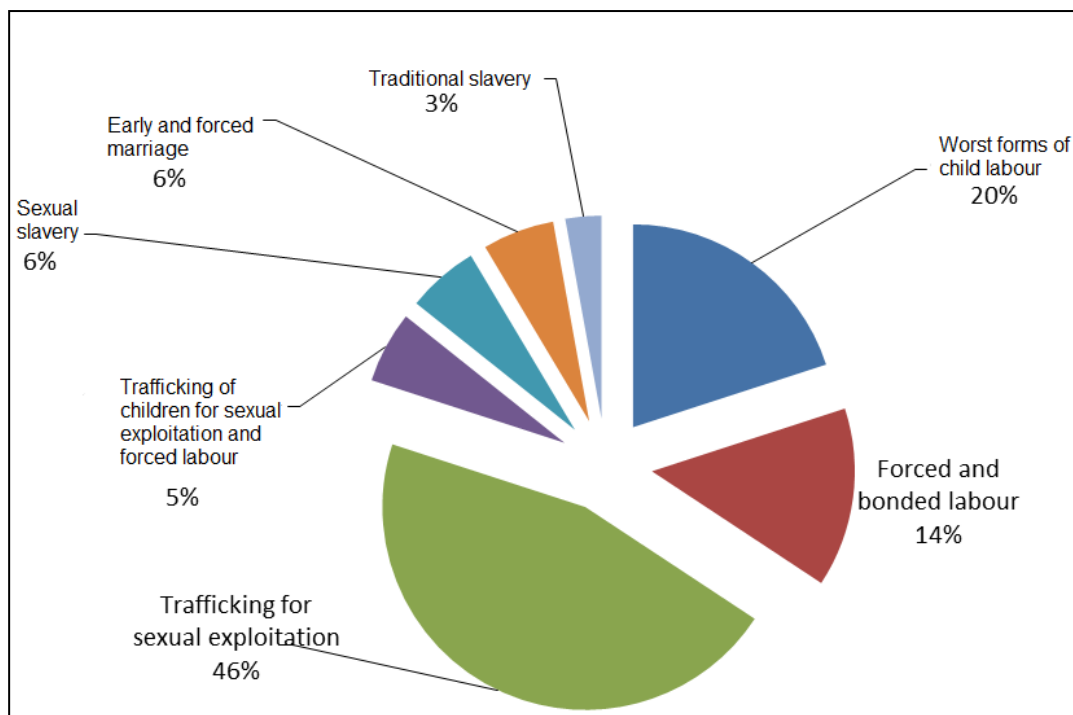


Figure III
Distribution of 2014 projects, by type of slavery



B. Policy recommendations

15. At the session, the Board of Trustees underlined the need to raise the profile of the Fund with external partners and within the work done by OHCHR on modern slavery. In order to do so, awarded projects will be increasingly identified using a solid knowledge base, building upon cooperation with OHCHR field presences and taking into account priorities identified by OHCHR for the period 2014-2017, as well as by treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery and other relevant special rapporteurs.

16. The Board of Trustees noted that the Fund has developed substantial experience in giving grants for projects addressing issues related to contemporary forms of slavery. The Fund should capitalize further on its experience to identify which forms of assistance and protection are to be considered as good practices. In particular, a methodology will be put in place to better assess the impact and results achieved in the short and long term by projects that receive grants from the Fund.

17. The visibility of the Fund should be enhanced through the regular display of disaggregated data on the grants awarded. Information on the impact of the Fund's grants, including victims' stories, will be collected regularly with the aim of producing audiovisual material that gives a human face to the issue of slavery. A brochure collecting the accounts of some of the victims assisted with the support of the Fund in recent years showcasing their resilience and the long path towards rehabilitation was launched in July 2014 on the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

18. The Board agreed that the Fund should continue promoting a global approach through its annual calls for applications. Additionally, when its funding level allows, adequate resources should be set aside to respond to emergencies in specific regions or countries and to particular thematic trends, and an appropriate procedure should be developed to allow applications for such resources.

19. Despite the funding constraints and in order for grants to have a greater impact, the Board also recommended that the average size of its yearly grant be increased, from \$11,400 (the average for grants awarded under the 2014 call for applications) to \$20,000 (the maximum amount for individual grants for 2015).

20. The Fund should also continue enhancing coordination with other grant-making institutions, such as the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and private foundations. Wherever possible, the Fund will endeavour to work in a collaborative way with other institutions, sharing information about methods and practices that have proved effective in providing humanitarian, legal and financial assistance to victims of contemporary forms of slavery.

C. Fundraising

21. At its eighteenth session, an insufficient level of funding compelled the Board of Trustees to dedicate time to formulate concrete recommendations for a targeted fundraising strategy for the Fund.

22. The Board noted that the Fund was currently working with a minimum level of required resources to fulfil its mandate. The Board reiterated that the Fund would need a minimum of \$2 million in contributions on a yearly basis in order to meaningfully fulfil its mandate.

D. Cooperation with United Nations agencies and developments in the United Nations system concerning relevant mandates

23. On 20 November 2013, the Board held a conference call with the former Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, who thanked the Board for its contribution to her final thematic report, on challenges and lessons in combating contemporary forms of slavery, which was submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session ([A/HRC/24/43](#)). She also expressed gratitude for the financial support provided by the Fund to cover the costs related to the participation of grassroots civil society representatives in the framework of her country visits. She expressed the wish that similar support continue in 2014-2015; the Board agreed to grant that wish despite the current financial constraints.

E. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

24. On 2 December 2013, the Secretary-General made the following statement to commemorate the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery:

This year's International Day for the Abolition of Slavery comes as the international community is intensifying efforts to eradicate poverty and forge a

post-2015 development agenda. In pursuing these goals, it is vital that we give special consideration to ending modern-day slavery and servitude, which affects the poorest, most socially excluded groups — including migrants, women, discriminated ethnic groups, minorities and indigenous peoples.

There has been important progress in the last year. A number of countries have acted to combat slavery through stronger domestic legislation and greater coordination. More and more businesses are working to ensure their activities do not cause or contribute to contemporary forms of slavery in the workplace and their supply chains.

I strongly support these initiatives and urge all Member States to ratify the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, develop robust and effective domestic legislation and boost enforcement on the ground. The partnership of the private sector in implementing these efforts is critical.

Civil society continues to play a major role in assisting victims, often with the support of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. For more than 20 years, the Fund has helped restore human rights and dignity to tens of thousands of children, women and men. I urge continued support for this vital initiative.

As we mark the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, let us join forces to make our world slavery-free.

V. How to contribute to the Fund

25. The Fund depends on voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities. Donors should indicate “for the Slavery Fund, account SH” on a payment order. For information on how to contribute, donors are requested to contact: 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; e-mail: slaveryfund@ohchr.org; telephone: 41 22 917 9376; fax: 41 22 917 9017.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

26. **Owing to increased funding constraints, at its eighteenth session, the Board of Trustees was able to recommend only 35 grants for 2014, for a total amount of \$ 400,000. The Board is concerned about the insufficient level of contributions received and reiterates that the Fund would need at least \$2 million each year in order to meaningfully fulfil its mandate.**

27. **In line with the message of the Secretary-General on International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, 2 December 2013, donors and potential donors are encouraged to support the Fund so that it can provide crucial rehabilitation assistance to victims of slavery worldwide. Contributions should reach the Fund before November 2014 in order for them to be duly recorded by the United Nations Treasurer in advance of the nineteenth session of the Board.**