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1. American Association of Jurists

Special consultative status granted in 1989

The principles and objectives of the American Association of Jurists (AAJ) are:

- (a) Self-determination of peoples, and full economic independence and the sovereignty of the State over its wealth and natural resources;
- (b) To oppose imperialism, fascism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, oppose racism and discrimination against women, indigenous peoples and national minorities;
- (c) The defense of real peace based on the principles of peaceful co-existence between States of different social and economic systems;
- (d) To defend and promote human rights, and the realization of better and more effective guarantees for their protection;
- (e) To denounce and oppose repressive legislation in American States which contradicts and deviates from principles and objectives of the Association;
- (f) To establish fraternal relations and common actions with jurists and their organizations throughout the world committed to objectives similar to those stated in our Statutes;
- (g) To mobilize jurists of the American countries to develop joint actions to ensure the active involvement of the juridical science in the process of social and economic changes in their respective countries, which are consistent with the principles and objectives enumerated herein;
- (h) The defense, effective protection and dignifying of the legal profession as well as solidarity with jurists who are persecuted because of their activity in abiding by the principles herein set forth.

Participation in activities of the Economic and Social Council and bodies of the United Nations

Commission on Human Rights (March-April 1997)

Interventions on the following items: project for a facultative protocol to the Economic, Social and Cultural Covenant; right to development; readjustment policies; the situation of illegal immigrants in the United States and the right of free speech. Two activities in Geneva, one on globalization and development, and the other on the land question in Brazil.

Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, August 1997)

Written statement (E/CN.4/1998/WG.14/2) on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Activity in Geneva on impunity and violations of civil and political rights.

Commission on Human Rights (March 1998)

Written statement regarding impunity and extraterritorial violations of human rights. Sponsored three activities: the agrarian question; globalization, transnational corporations and the civil society; International Criminal Court. In December 1998, submitted a written statement on the need for an objective assessment of the state of human rights in the world (E/CN.4/1999/NGO/3).

Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (Geneva, July 1998)

Written statement on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1998/NGO/20).

Annual DPI/NGO Conference (New York, September 1998)

Attendance at the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: From Words to Deeds.

Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (Rome, June-July 1998)

Attendance and participation in meetings and events; circulated an essay, "The Statute on the International Criminal Court".

Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 1-19 March 1999)

Representation at the forty-third session.

Commission on Human Rights (March-April 1999)

Oral interventions on right to self-determination, Colombia and the trafficking of children.

Subcommission on Human Rights (August 1999)

Written statements, "The international monetary system and the right to development" and "The right to education, including education on human rights". Oral statements regarding Kosovo, Iraq, the rights of indigenous populations and racial discrimination of African communities in the Americas.

Annual DPI/NGO Conference (New York, September 1999)

Attendance.

United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (New York, 31 March 2000)

Attended a seminar on the role of civil society in policy formulation and service delivery.

Commission on Human Rights (March-April 2000)

Written statements submitted in December 1999 and circulated in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31 on the violation of human rights and fundamental

freedoms in any part of the world (E/CN.4/2000/NGO/86); integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective (E/CN.4/2000/NGO/87); rights of the child (E/CN.4/2000/NGO/88); economic, social and cultural rights (E/CN.4/2000/NGO/90); the right to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation (E/CN.4/2000/NGO/85); civil and political rights, including the questions of independence of the judiciary, administration of justice, and impunity (E/CN.4/2000/NGO/91), impunity and the right to reparations. Oral statements on self-determination, impunity, Chile. Attendance at the Conference on Forced Disappearances and Impunity, Geneva, 6 April 2000.

Twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (New York, 6-9 June 2000)

Participation at the special session on Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century.

Twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (Geneva, 26-30 June 2000)

Participation at the special session on the World Summit for Social Development and at the Geneva 2000 NGO Forum; co-sponsored conferences on globalization, the meaning of the term “civil society”, changes in the role of the State and its social consequences.

Subcommission on Human Rights (Geneva, August 2000)

Written statements, “Exercise of economic, social and cultural rights”; “The role of the United Nations in the promotion of the right to development”.

Special Committee on Decolonization (New York, July 1997-2000)

Observer on various items, oral intervention in the case of Puerto Rico.

Other relevant activities

- (a) Seminar on sanctions with respect to violations of economic, social and cultural rights, Madrid, 1997;
- (b) First International Conference on Human Rights, Brazil, September 1997; intervention on the rights of the child;
- (c) Seminar on Regional Integration of the Caribbean and Central America, Martinique, October 1998;
- (d) Participation in “World Forum Vienna +5”, Ottawa, Canada, June 1998;
- (e) Seminar on Human Rights in the New Millennium, co-sponsored by UNESCO, Quito, Ecuador, 21-24 March 2000;
- (f) Attended the NGO Millennium Forum, New York, 22-26 May 2000;
- (g) Collaboration with working groups and rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights and its subcommissions;
- (h) Attendance at ILO meetings and meetings on the draft proposal for a statute on an international criminal court;

- (i) Published and cited United Nations documents in the *Journal* of the Association;
- (j) Observed International Day for the Respect of International Law;
- (k) Sent missions to the Dominican Republic and Ecuador.

2. Integrated Care Society

Special consultative status granted in 1997

The Integrated Care Society (ICS) was established in 1977 to mobilize, support and coordinate efforts to provide health, cultural, educational and social care to children and families in rural and urban areas in Egypt.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

El Nahda shelter housing project

ICS, working for 10 years in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), in the El Nahda area, provided health, environmental and infrastructural development in addition to literacy classes and vocational training. The project seeks to delineate the basic demographic features in the area, define people's needs and priorities, prepare a care plan and programme for them, provide basic services and rehabilitation programmes, especially with regard to women's literacy and vocational training, to enable them to augment income and exercise self care for themselves, their children and their families.

Ein Helwan community development project

The earthquake that rocked Egypt on 12 October 1992 had tremendous human and material costs. However, the disaster presented Egypt with a unique opportunity to embark on a comprehensive civil development project by making earthquake resettlement a top priority. A great number of families from squatter areas in the capital were resettled in new neighbourhoods. In Cairo, Ein Helwan was selected for pilot community development projects. A population of 9,000 people from different poor slum and squatter areas destroyed by the earthquake were resettled in Ein Helwan.

An agreement was signed between UNICEF and ICS in June 1993. The main objective was to improve the social and economic living conditions of the poor in resettlement areas like Ein Helwan, by promoting community participation and organization.

The project is a full-scale human development project at the social, economic and health levels. It offers a large variety of activities, such as vocational training, small income-generating projects, a day-care centre, literacy classes, a centre for children with special needs, a birth control centre, computer classes, sports facilities and a golden-age club for older citizens.

A new agreement with UNICEF was signed in January 2000 to apply to the Grameen Bank which offers small loans to start mini projects.

New activities

In addition to the activities of ICS which were described in detail in the 1996 report and which are ongoing, the following new activities were undertaken between 1997 and 2000:

Project for improving and developing special education schools

In 1999 the Chairperson of ICS led it in a new project in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and private institution working in the field of children with special needs. As a pilot project five schools in Cairo were chosen. As a first step ICS organized a conference entitled "New horizons in special education development". Teachers, administrators, specialists from both the government and private schools, and NGOs participated. An action plan and an implementation plan followed. First, the schools' premises were renovated and refurnished in accordance with specific defined needs. Then an administrative scheme was elaborated in which the school administration, teachers, parents, experts and ICS representatives were to work hand in hand. This was followed by extensive training in which all concerned parties took courses, seminars and workshops. ICS provided space and equipment at its own centre in Zeitoun and added to it a specialized reference library with a database and comprehensive guidelines on problems relating to special needs in Egypt. The designated schools were provided with state-of-the-art medical and psychological services, sport facilities, a special gymnasium and vocational computer labs.

A follow-up conference allowed the concerned parties to discuss the achievements and future plans. Teachers and administrators participated actively. ICS hopes that its combined efforts with the government, institutions and non-governmental organizations will set an example to be applied across the country.

Intercountry meeting on strengthening the role of women in community-based programmes in the Eastern Mediterranean

The meeting was held in Tunisia from 17 to 20 April 2000 and organized by WHO, the Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, the International Planned Parenthood Federation. The objectives of the meeting were to review and discuss achievements and constraints related to the Beijing Platform for Action at the country level in the areas of health and development, and to develop country and regional guiding plans of action for building capacities to implement the regional strategies and plan of action recently endorsed by the fortieth Regional Committee, held in Cairo during September 1999. A member of the supervisory committee of Ein Helwan participated in the meeting and presented a paper on the urban community development project in the resettlement area of Ein Helwan.

3. Inter American Press Association**Special consultative status granted in 1953**

The Inter American Press Association (IAPA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to defending freedom of expression and of the press throughout the Americas. Its chief aims are to defend press freedom wherever it is challenged in the Americas; protect the interests of the press in the Americas; advocate the dignity,

rights and responsibilities of journalism; encourage high standards of professional and business conduct; foster the exchange of ideas and information that contribute to the professional and technical development of the press; and foster a wider knowledge and greater interchange among the peoples of the Americas in support of the basic principles of a free society and individual liberty.

During 1997-2000, the Inter American Press Association continued its activities supporting, defending and promoting the fundamental freedoms of the press and of expression that are enshrined in both the Charter of the United Nations and in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. IAPA enjoys a membership in excess of 1,300, representing newspapers and magazines from Argentina to Canada, with a combined circulation of 43,353,762. There have been no substantial changes in geographical membership, funding or affiliation during this period.

IAPA has two autonomous affiliates: the IAPA Press Institute, which offers Latin American members advice on technical publishing matters, and the IAPA Scholarship Fund, which provides funds for educational activities. The Association also organizes an annual awards programme to recognize newspapers and journalists for news coverage in the Americas.

All activities of IAPA continue to be financed exclusively by membership dues and contributions from members and news-related foundations. The organization receives no financial assistance directly or indirectly from any Government or governmental agency. During the period 1997-2000, IAPA received major funding from the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, Freedom Forum, Inter-American Development Bank, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and smaller contributions and joint sponsorship with organizations such as the American Press Institute, the Newspaper Association of America, North-South Center, Poynter Institute, University of Miami, Northwestern University, and International Center for Journalists.

Participation in United Nations activities

Officers or delegates of IAPA have participated in the following United Nations events:

(a) The Director-General of UNESCO signed the Declaration of Chapultepec. An IAPA delegation attended the signing ceremony at UNESCO headquarters in Paris (May 1995);

(b) Latin American business newspapers forged a joint network under the auspices of UNESCO, in Bogotá, Colombia (August 1995);

(c) Danilo Arbilla, Chairman of IAPA's Committee on Freedom of the Press and Information participated in a panel discussion on free speech at UNESCO headquarters (May 1996);

(d) UNESCO established the annual World Press Freedom Prize, called UNESCO/Guillermo Cano Prize, in honour of the murdered editor of *El Espectador*, Bogotá, Colombia (January 1997);

(e) An IAPA delegation attended and participated in the Forum on Communication and Information, sponsored by UNESCO in Caracas, Venezuela (June-July 1997);

(f) Alfonso Canelos, *Los Tiempos*, Bolivia, represented IAPA at the UNESCO-sponsored seminar, "The press and democracy" in Equatorial Guinea (August 1997);

(g) The UNESCO General Conference adopted a resolution setting mechanisms for bringing those guilty of crimes against journalists to justice. IAPA attended the General Conference (November 1997);

(h) IAPA approved a resolution during its mid-year meeting to recognize the concern expressed by UNESCO on the subject of murdered journalists (March 1998);

(i) The UNESCO Director-General received the Chapultepec Grand Prize during the IAPA mid-year meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico (March 1998);

(j) Andrés García Lavín, former IAPA President, was appointed by UNESCO's Director-General as a "special advisor" to the world body (July 1998);

(k) IAPA participated in the UNESCO event to commemorate World Press Freedom Day in Bogotá, Colombia (May 1999);

(l) An IAPA delegation participated in a UNESCO meeting to look into unpunished crimes against journalists (December 1999);

(m) The UNESCO Director-General signed the Declaration of Chapultepec. An IAPA delegation participated in the signing ceremony at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris (September 2000).

Other relevant activities

Committee on Freedom of the Press and Information

The Committee on Freedom of the Press and Information continues to monitor the status of freedom of the press in each country of the hemisphere, preparing country-by-country reports twice annually. The Committee organized special missions to countries where press freedom problems occurred, including Peru, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela.

Impunity Project/rapid response units

The IAPA Impunity Project, funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, has been busy investigating unpunished crimes against journalists in Latin America. There have been 227 journalists murdered in the past 12 years. These senseless acts must stop, and perhaps more importantly, those responsible must be punished. That is why, in January 2000, IAPA launched rapid response units in Colombia, Mexico, Brazil and Argentina. In each country, IAPA has asked local reporters to investigate crimes against journalists and seek immediate action by their Governments.

Since its creation, the units have investigated and followed up on 20 cases of murder or threats to journalists. IAPA has also been able to submit findings in six new investigations to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In all, the units have delivered documentation on 15 of the 25 cases that are currently being investigated.

A major success in the Impunity Project occurred in early August when the Guatemalan Government recognized its responsibility in 10 cases of human rights violations under review by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, among them the case of Irma Flaquer, kidnapped on 16 October 1980, and presumed dead. Information about the rapid response units and the Impunity Project can be found on the web site: www.impunidad.com.

Chapultepec project

During the period 1997-2000, IAPA received funding from the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation to promote rigorously the Declaration of Chapultepec. Drafted in Mexico City in 1994, this document contains 10 fundamental principles that must be adhered to if a free press is to perform its essential role in a democracy. The Declaration of Chapultepec is based on the precept that no law or act of government may limit freedom of expression or of the press, whatever the medium of communication. The Declaration has been signed by 21 Heads of State in the Western Hemisphere and by many international organizations, including UNESCO and the Organization of American States.

In the past four years, IAPA has organized national forums on the Declaration of Chapultepec in an effort to promote the 10 principles at the local level, and to analyse which laws and legislation restrict freedom of the press and of expression in each country. National forums were organized in Chile (October 1998), Mexico (January 1999), Panama (July 1999), Ecuador (August 1999), Argentina (September 1999), Haiti (January 2000), Puerto Rico (January 2000), Dominican Republic (January 2000), Colombia (May 2000), El Salvador (August 2000), and Paraguay (September 2000).

Accreditation project

During the past four years, a dedicated group of academics set out to organize the first Accreditation Council of Journalism Education Programmes in Latin America. The project was organized by IAPA with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank. In October 2000, the Council will meet for the first time to begin the process of evaluating schools of journalism in Latin America, in an effort to raise the standards of education and training in this field to meet the growing demands of a career in journalism in today's society.

4. International Academy of Architecture

Special consultative status granted in 1989

The International Academy of Architecture (IAA) has branches in Moscow, Paris, Tokyo, Rome, Istanbul and Prague. The main aims of IAA are to circulate information about the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the United Nations Environment Programme, to organize post-graduate training of young architects from all over the world; to train specialists from developing countries; to foster architecture and town planning, architectural theory and architectural education; to study the problems of architecture and ecology.

The Governing bodies of IAA are the Assembly and the Academic Council. The IAA Assembly has a session every three years; the Academic Council, every year.

IAA has active individual members in the following 40 countries: Armenia, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Japan, Jordan, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Sri Lanka, Malta, Mexico, Malaysia, Netherlands, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Yugoslavia.

IAA has been granted consultative status with UNICEF and UNIDO. It has a memorandum of understanding with UNCHS (Habitat) and UNEP. It maintains working relations and permanent mutual cooperation and consultative relations with the Economic Commission for Europe. It has signed an agreement of cooperation with the International Union of Architects (UIA) and the Panamerican Federation of Associations of Architects (FAPA). It cooperates with UNDP, the Union of German Architects, the Mexican Academy of Architecture, the Union of Russian Architects, the Russian and Belorussian Academy of Architecture, and with many universities and schools of architecture in different countries.

IAA representatives took part in various meetings of the Economic and Social Council in New York.

The IAA Centre in Paris organized meetings on behalf of IAA with the authorities of UNESCO. In cooperation with UNESCO, IAA organized two meetings in Paris on the problems of architectural education.

“Interarch 2000”, the Ninth World Triennial of Architecture in Sofia, was organized under the sponsorship of UNESCO. The UNDP resident representative in Bulgaria took an active part in the Interarch 2000 Honorary Committee and awarded a special prize to an architectural built work from the exhibition. Interarch 2000 was opened on the occasion of the proclamation of the United Nations International Year for a Culture of Peace. During Interarch 2000, participants from 22 countries learned about “Manifesto 2000”, to respect life, to reject violence, to respect the planet, to listen, to understand and to rediscover solidarity.

Other activities

(a) Research centre for new technologies and ecological energy-conscious architecture;

(b) IAA unique exhibit “Leading Masters of World Architecture”, containing photos of recent architectural built works of the most famous contemporary masters of architecture;

(c) International conferences, forums, seminars, and round-table discussions;

(d) International exhibitions, competitions on actual architectural problems, with the participation of young talented architects from all over the world;

(e) Permanent programme, “Architecture and children”.

IAA distributes information on its current activities through its publications: *IAA Review* (four times per year), and publications on international workshops and meetings.

5. International Centre for Ethnic Studies

Special consultative status granted in 1997

The International Centre for Ethnic Studies (ICES), since its establishment in 1982, has engaged in research and policy formulation programmes and projects in the areas of ethnicity, nationalism, comparative federalism, collective violence, multiculturalism, violence against women, and governance. In undertaking these projects, ICES has had three broad objectives in mind: namely, research, policy intervention and value formation. In its work in relation to the United Nations, ICES has focused mainly on the work of the Commission on Human Rights, the Working Group on Minorities and in providing support to the work of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women.

Participation in the Working Group on Minorities

1997. The organization's representative participated in the third session of the Working Group on Minorities and pointed out that the Declaration had not yet been afforded the same degree of recognition and focus as some other international instruments, and called on the Working Group to ensure that the Declaration would be promoted and steps taken for its effective realization.

1998. The organization's representative participated in the fourth session of the Working Group on Minorities and reiterated the importance of follow-up activities and the need to take stock of the status of the implementation of recommendations adopted at the last session. The ICES representative also urged the Working Group to focus on recent developments in the resolution of long-standing conflicts and integrate them into the work of the Working Group.

1999. The organization's representative attended the sessions and made interventions at the fifth session of the Working Group on Minorities in Geneva, 25-31 May 1999. A working paper written by ICES, entitled "The future role of the Working Group" (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.5/1999/WP.9) was circulated and discussed after presentation.

2000. The organization's representative participated in the sixth session of the Working Group on Minorities and made a verbal intervention regarding thematic issues that the Working Group could focus on for further study, research and analysis.

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions and other examples of consultative and substantive activities

ICES has held annual lectures on minority rights in Geneva since 1997. The lectures are closely tied to the Working Group on Minorities and address current and key topics dealing with minorities. Previous lectures delivered in the series are:

- (a) May 1997. Veena Das (Professor of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics), "Communities as political actors: the question of cultural rights";
- (b) May 1998. Henry J. Steiner (Professor of Law, Harvard Law School), "The 1992 Declaration on Minorities and Autonomy Regimes: human rights dilemmas";

(c) May 1999. Radhika Coomaraswamy (United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women), “A question of honour: women, ethnicity and armed conflict”;

(d) May 2000. Yash Ghai (Sir Y. K. Pao, Professor of Public Law, University of Hong Kong), “Constitutions for divided societies”.

At the request of the Chairpersons of the Working Group on Minorities and the Working Group on Indigenous People, ICES organized a seminar, “Multiculturalism in Africa: peaceful and constructive group accommodation in situations involving minorities and indigenous peoples”, held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, 13-15 May 2000. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, based in Arusha, cooperated in the preparation and organization of the seminar. ICES held a meeting on institutional coordination and strengthening regional institutional support to the Working Group on Minorities, in Geneva on 27 May 2000. Mr. Asbjorn Eide, Chairperson of the Working Group on Minorities, chaired the meeting.

ICES organized an informal meeting at the Palais de Nations between South Asian non-governmental organizations and representatives from South Asian embassies to open a dialogue on minority issues. Representatives from the Sri Lankan, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, and Nepalese embassies met with the NGO representatives from the Dalits, Kashmiri, Sikh, and other minority communities.

ICES provides institutional support to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on violence against women, and the staff of ICES have assisted the Special Rapporteur in the preparation of her annual reports to the General Assembly and in the creation and maintenance of the Special Rapporteur’s violence against women archives.

National and regional initiatives

Project on Minority Protection in South Asia. This project was initiated with three broad objectives: to conduct a detailed examination of experiences, achievements and shortfalls of minority/majority arrangements in the region to provide valuable input to the further deliberations of the Working Group on Minorities; to link the efforts of civil society and regional governments to develop clarity on minority rights and obligations and to promote understanding between ethnic groups that are engaging in, or could engage in, confrontational politics; and to utilize the critical mass of empirical experience that emerges from this exercise as an appropriate basis for further exploration on the viability of establishing some form of advisory services at the regional, national and/or local levels.

National workshops

The Sri Lanka Workshop was held on 14 August 1999 at Sri Lanka Foundation Institute. Dr. Jayadeva Uyangoda, Senior Lecturer, Department of History and Political Science, University of Colombo, presented the country paper, “Sri Lanka: the question of minority rights”. A follow-up discussion was held on 6 November 1999 on the following themes:

(a) How to address majority/minority anxieties in a constitutional framework of pluralism?

(b) Is majority/minority language useful any longer in the imaginations of political emancipation?

(c) How can democracy reconcile majority/minority discourses of group rights?

(d) How should the human rights discourse respond to Sri Lanka's crisis of majority/minority relations?

The Bangladesh Workshop was held on 13 November 1999 in Dhaka. Dr. Ameena Mohsin, Lecturer, Department of International Relations, Dhaka University, delivered the country paper, "The question of minority rights protection in Bangladesh".

Setting up regional advisory boards

The initial steps in this direction are found in the commissioning of country-paper writers. The ultimate objective would be achieved after all the workshops are held and, as in the Sri Lankan experience, further discussions on country-specific themes are concluded.

6. International Federation of Non-Government Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse

Special consultative status granted in 1989

The objectives of the International Federation of Non-Government Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse (IFNGO) are:

(a) The development of collaborative and fruitful interactions among non-governmental organizations, regionally and internationally, to identify the needs of service and implement diversified programmes to prevent and control drug abuse, with the ultimate aim to achieve a drug-free society;

(b) The promotion of cooperation and collaboration between governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations at the national, regional and international levels.

Increase in membership

Membership of IFNGO increased from 54 members in 31 countries at the end of 1996 to 71 members in 36 countries as at 10 July 2000. New countries with members are: China (1999), Republic of Korea (1998), Myanmar (2000), Spain (1999), Viet Nam (1997). New members are: Asian Federation of Therapeutic Communities (1999), Asia and the Pacific Family Organization (1999), Asia/Pacific NGOs for Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse (2000), International Organization of Good Templars, Regional Council for South and South-East Asia (2000), South Asian Federation for Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse (1998).

Funding

IFNGO has not received any funding support from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) for the period under review.

Affiliations

IFNGO is affiliated with the following international non-governmental organizations in consultative status:

- (a) World Federation of Family Organizations (joined as a member in 1998);
- (b) Asia and Pacific NGOs for Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse (ASPAC-NGO), based in Bangkok, Thailand. IFNGO was a founding member; it and ASPAC-NGO have a crossed membership arrangement.

The International Consortium of NGOs for the Global Initiative on Primary Prevention of Substance Abuse, jointly established by IFNGO, the International Organization of Good Templars, the Parents Resource Institute for Drug Education, the Worldview International Foundation and the International Council on Alcohol and Addiction, was disbanded, because its cooperation with UNDCP and WHO had not yielded any positive results.

Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies

The President-elect of IFNGO attended the fifty-third session of ESCAP (Bangkok, 23-30 April 1997). IFNGO representatives attended the NGO Forum on Social Development in Asia and Pacific (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 8-10 September 1997). The Forum proposed a "message to Manila". IFNGO representatives attended the fifth Asia and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development (Manila, Philippines, 5-11 November 1997). IFNGO representatives attended, as observers, the fifty-fourth session of ESCAP (Bangkok, Thailand, 16-22 April 1998). The President of IFNGO attended the fifty-sixth session of ESCAP (Bangkok, Thailand). The Secretary of IFNGO attended the ESCAP hearing in preparation for the United Nations Millennium Assembly, United Nations University (Tokyo, Japan, 9-10 September 1999).

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

IFNGO entered into working relations with WHO.

IFNGO has collaborated with WHO to increase global awareness on the harms associated with alcohol abuse and on the hearings on the framework convention for tobacco control.

IFNGO and the Malaysia National Anti-Drug Association (PEMADAM) hosted and published the proceedings of the third International Private-sector Conference on Drugs in the Workplace and the Community (Petaling Jaya, Malaysia, 3-6 July 1997), jointly organized by UNDCP and ILO. The objectives of the Conference were to mobilize the private sector in efforts to reduce drug abuse, and to promote partnership between the business world and the community for joint action against drug abuse.

IFNGO was upgraded to an NGO in operational relationship with UNESCO.

IFNGO collaborated with UNDCP to distribute and collate responses for the UNDCP/NGO fact sheet in 1997 and again in 2000. In collaboration with the UNDCP Bangkok regional office, it implemented the study tour for senior officers from Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Viet Nam,

to study collaboration in drug substance abuse prevention education programmes (Singapore and Malaysia, 16-26 July 1997). Also in collaboration with the UNDCP Bangkok regional office, it implemented the "Lights On" Manifesto, on 26 June 2000.

An official of IFNGO, at the invitation of UNESCO, attended, as an observer, the Youth Consultation for a Twenty-first Century Free of Drugs at UNESCO headquarters (Paris, 9-10 February 1998).

Annually, the IFNGO secretariat circulated in advance the embargoed messages of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking by the United Nations Secretary-General and the Executive Director of UNDCP, as follows:

- (a) 1997: "Mobilizing communities to prevent drug abuse";
- (b) 1998: "Youth uniting to prevent drug abuse";
- (c) 1999: "Music";
- (d) 2000: "Facing reality: denial, corruption and violence".

IFNGO members commemorated the International Day (26 June) every year, 1997-2000.

IFNGO made suggestions for the preparation of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be convened in 2000.

Other relevant activities

IFNGO launched its homepage on the Internet: <http://mmserve.com/drugs/ifngo>.

In collaboration with its affiliates, IFNGO organized the following international conferences: seventeenth IFNGO International Conference (Bangkok, Thailand, 8-13 November 1998), on the theme "New dimensions on prevention of drug and substance abuse"; and eighteenth IFNGO International Conference (Brisbane, Australia, 3-7 July 2000), on the theme "Global and grass-roots strategies on drugs". In collaboration with its affiliates in ASEAN, it hosted and organized the following IFNGO/ASEAN workshops: eighth IFNGO/ASEAN NGO Workshop (Singapore, 19-21 November 1997) on the theme "Mobilizing communities to prevent drug abuse"; ninth IFNGO/ASEAN NGO Workshop (Jakarta, Indonesia, 26-29 September 1999), on the theme "Youth uniting to prevent drug abuse"; tenth IFNGO/ASEAN NGO Workshop (Bangkok, Thailand, 26-29 April 2000), on the theme "ASEAN solidarity on the prevention of drug and substance abuse".

Representatives of IFNGO attended the twenty-first meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Matters (Jakarta, Indonesia, 6-8 April 1999).

IFNGO affiliates from ASEAN participated in the Internet Access Training Workshop organized by the Australia Alcohol and Other Drug Council (Bangkok, Thailand, 26-29 April 2000).

7. International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences

Special consultative status granted in 1989

The International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences (IIHSCS) was founded in 1972 by the International Association of Penal Law and established as a public foundation by a decree of the President of Italy. IIHSCS is a not-for-profit, post-graduate educational and scientific institution for study, research, training and technical cooperation in international criminal law and human rights which has, over the years, established and maintained forms of collaboration and partnership with several United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

During the period under consideration, IIHSCS participated in several international congresses, conferences and meetings. With particular reference to United Nations meetings, IIHSCS representatives attended, inter alia, annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, 1997-2000) and of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, 1997-2000), the Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (Rome, 1998) (the President of the Conference is a member of the Institute's Board of Directors, and the IIHSCS President chaired the Drafting Committee of the Conference), the Tenth United Nations Congress for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Vienna, 2000), the sessions of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (New York, 1997-2000) (the IIHSCS President was Vice-Chairman), and the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Vienna, 1999-2000).

During the biennium 1998-1999, the President of the Institute was appointed by the Commission on Human Rights to serve as the independent expert on the right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Furthermore, on the occasion of most United Nations and other international meetings, IIHSCS representatives were invited to lecture, act as resource persons, submit studies or papers or contribute with their substantive knowledge and expertise.

The Institute has a special cooperation agreement with the Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) of the United Nations Office at Vienna, and it is one of the 14 organizations comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, established by the General Assembly in resolution 46/152, with a view to assisting Member States in strengthening international cooperation in the crucial area of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Activities in support of the establishment of the International Criminal Court

The Institute's work in the creation of the International Criminal Court (ICC) has been seminal, with over 20 international conferences, inter-sessional meetings, seminars, and expert groups organized since IIHSCS's inception.

During the period 1997-2000, IIHSCS organized four inter-sessional meetings of the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court (29 May-4 June and 16-22 November 1997, 22-26 June 1999 and 31 January-5 February 2000), in cooperation with the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat. In preparation for the Diplomatic Conference, IIHSCS also organized an informal meeting of the Bureau (4-8 May 1998), attended by the Presidents-designate, the General Rapporteur, the United Nations Secretariat (Office of Legal Affairs and Executive Office of the Secretary-General) and experts involved in the establishment of the ICC.

Protection of human rights in the administration of criminal justice

From 25 May to 1 June 1997, IIHSCS organized a training seminar for Portuguese-speaking African countries in collaboration with CICP and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights as well as with the Council of Europe and the European Commission for Human Rights.

The International Conference on Impunity for International Crimes and Serious Violations of Fundamental Human Rights, organized by IIHSCS (16-21 September 1997), was attended by, among others, officials and experts designated by CICP, UNHCR and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

International cooperation in criminal matters

Following an intergovernmental expert group meeting on extradition, organized in 1996 in collaboration with CICP, IIHSCS held three different activities related to extradition:

- (a) International Expert Group Meeting (30-31 May 1997) organized in cooperation with CICP with a view to preparing international training seminars for justice and foreign affairs officials of developing countries. The training seminars had been mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 52/88 of 12 December 1997;
- (b) United Nations Training Seminar for Developing Countries (16-22 November 1997);
- (c) United Nations Expert Group Meeting for the elaboration of model legislation on extradition (22-23 November 1997).

IIHSCS also organized, in collaboration with CICP, the International Training Seminar on International Cooperation in Criminal Matters (1-5 June 1997), attended by public prosecutors of several Arab countries and aimed at strengthening international cooperation in criminal matters.

International criminal law

In cooperation with CICP, IIHSCS organized an International Conference on the Systems of Comparative Criminal Justice (16-20 December 1997), addressing such important issues of international criminal law as the harmonization of different national legal systems and legislation.

Technical assistance to developing countries and countries in transition

Most of the activities mentioned above fall within the Institute's technical assistance and cooperation programme, implemented in cooperation with United Nations Secretariat offices, bodies and specialized agencies and geared towards assisting developing countries, particularly African and Arab countries, as well as Central and Eastern European countries. The programme addresses such areas as the strengthening of and respect for human rights within the criminal justice systems, international cooperation in criminal matters, including extradition and mutual legal assistance, and the fight against organized crime and its transnational manifestations, good governance and the rule of law, and support in connection with the International Criminal Court.

Consultation and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

IIHSCS maintains a close and fruitful collaboration relationship with colleagues within various United Nations Secretariat units. In particular, the work leading to the establishment of the International Criminal Court and that related to human rights protection has fostered cooperation with officials of the Office of Legal Affairs, the Centre for Human Rights and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Regrettably, the consultative and cooperative process with officials serving with the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention has dramatically decreased since 1998, due to a deliberate policy undertaken by the Office's management and in spite of the repeated request for and offer of collaboration advanced by this Institute. This situation, which has been made known to the Secretary-General and other relevant bodies and organs, is detrimental not only to the United Nations as an institution but, most of all, to its constituency, particularly developing countries and countries in transition, which are denied the beneficial effects of programmes organized by IIHSCS in collaboration with the various United Nations Vienna-based Offices, particularly the Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. Several other institutes in the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, as well as members of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, have expressed their concerns with regard to the decision by the Office to reduce its cooperation, or make it very selective, with long-standing partners, notwithstanding mandates and recommendations of the relevant United Nations policy-making bodies.

8. International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Special consultative status granted in 1981

The purpose of the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (EAFORD) is humanitarian, emanating from the principle of the equality in dignity and rights of all human beings. The specific principles and objectives of the organization are set forth in the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The organization adopts all legitimate means of contributing to the elimination of racial discrimination everywhere and attempts to organize efforts for that purpose, to ensure a greater measure of effectiveness, including the following:

- (a) Collection of information and preparation of studies and references on racism in general, and their dissemination;
- (b) Raising awareness of the problem of racism and its danger to the human community, human dignity and world peace, through publications, conferences, seminars and other methods;
- (c) Confirmations of the moral and human values of equality and justice without discrimination;
- (d) Exposure of the interrelationship between racism, colonialism and imperialism;
- (e) Cooperation with and support to efforts of non-governmental organizations engaged in combating racism and racial discrimination;
- (f) Such other activities as may contribute to greater understanding among people, on the basis of the equal worth and dignity of all human beings. For example, EAFORD occasionally grants fellowship awards to graduate students and presents an international award for the promotion of human understanding.

Activities

As it has done for the past two decades, EAFORD continues to engage in a number of activities and projects, often in cooperation with the United Nations or other non-governmental organizations concerned with human rights and the elimination of racial discrimination. All activities of EAFORD are directed towards the realization of the objectives of the United Nations by fighting discrimination in all fields. During the period under review, EAFORD convened seminars and conferences with universities, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations on racism and racial discrimination in general, and on self-determination of the Palestinians and rights and conditions of indigenous peoples and minorities, in Geneva, New York, and the Middle East. It also participated, through oral and written interventions, in at least 200 conferences and seminars organized by non-governmental organizations and the United Nations and its agencies.

EAFORD participated in the United Nations NGO Meeting/European NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine "Ending 30 years of occupation: the role of NGOs" (25-28 August 1997, Geneva) and in the United Nations International NGOs Meeting on the Question of Palestine (27-29 April 1998, Cairo). EAFORD participated in the NGO Forum during the World Trade Organization Ministerial

Conference and the Fiftieth Anniversary Commemoration (Geneva, on 18-20 May 1998).

EAFORD participated in all sessions of the Commission On Human Rights, 1997-2000, and made various interventions, especially under agenda item 6, "Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination"; item 8 "Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine"; item 9, "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world"; item 10, "Economic, social and cultural rights"; item 17, "Promotion and protection of human rights", and item 20, "Rationalization of the work of the Commission".

EAFORD participated in all sessions of the Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights 1997-2000 and made various interventions, especially under agenda item 2, "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including policies of racial discrimination and segregation and of apartheid, in all countries, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories"; item 3, "Comprehensive examination of thematic issues relating to the elimination of racial discrimination"; item 4, "The realization of economic, social and cultural rights"; item 10, "The right to return to one's own country", and item 12, "Review of further developments in fields with which the Subcommission has been or may be concerned".

EAFORD submitted recommendations concerning the World Conference on Racism and Racial Discrimination, according to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/74, through the Preparatory Committee at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions.

EAFORD serves on the Subcommittee on Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Decolonization, and is a member of the International Coordinating Committee of NGOs on the Question of Palestine, of the Special NGO Committee on Human Rights, and of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council. EAFORD publishes a biannual newsletter with "UN Update" sections. It provides information to United Nations bodies, including committees and working groups, dealing with specific questions on racism and racial discrimination and submits observations and reports to officials of the United Nations Secretariat, OHCHR, the Special Rapporteurs and non-governmental organizations.

EAFORD jointly sponsored two round tables at the United Nations in Geneva, during the session of the Commission on Human Rights on 16 April 1999 and during the session of the Subcommission on 18 August 1999, entitled "The killing of a people", concerning the impact of economic sanctions on Iraq. It also jointly sponsored two round tables in 2000 for the same bodies concerning the adverse consequences of the economic sanctions.

EAFORD was invited to take part in organizing a seminar at the University of Geneva, "Embargo + depleted uranium = genocide", which was held on 17 and 18 March 2000.

EAFORD participated in activities supporting General Assembly resolution 52/127, "United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, 1995-2004, and public information activities in the field of human rights". It directed several communications to Ministers of Education worldwide urging them to include human

rights education in their country's school curricula and it encouraged International Hotel and Restaurant Associations to place the emblem of the United Nations at the entrance of their hotels, and to place copies of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, translated into the official United Nations languages, in hotel rooms.

A member of the EAFORD Executive Council, Professor Dr. Turkkaya Ataov, was awarded the Citation of Meritorious Contribution to African Scholarship by the University of Bophuthatswana (South Africa). In 2000 he published a book entitled *Discrimination and Conflict* which treats various kinds of discrimination as sources of conflicts. It gives examples of discriminatory attitudes and behaviour with the potential to provoke conflict. The book is a comprehensive review and a true mirror of the mounting waves of bias, exclusion, racism and violence that will persist until discrimination is eliminated.

EAFORD's Executive Council members continued to offer interviews focusing comparatively on South Africa, indigenous peoples and minorities, and in support of the rights of Palestinians to news agencies, papers, radios and TVs, especially before, during, and following the last Camp David Summit in the summer of 2000.

Publications

Discrimination and Conflict. A comprehensive and historical review of old and new cases of racism and violence.

Two Camp Davids. A comparison of the *Two Camp David Meetings*, of 1978 and 2000.

Jerusalem at Camp David. An analysis of the reasons for the failure to reach an agreement.

Without Prejudice. The EAFORD international journal on racial discrimination.

The publications of EAFORD, including its newsletter, special reports and studies, information sheets and bulletins, are sent regularly to United Nations offices and to non-governmental organizations and international and national offices and agencies. Information is continually provided regarding United Nations activities and the role which EAFORD plays with the Organization, as well as the contact EAFORD maintains throughout the year with the United Nations.

9. Richmond Fellowship International

Special consultative status granted in 1989

The Richmond Fellowship International (RFI) for community mental health has a worldwide commitment to the rehabilitation and social integration of those who suffer by reason of mental ill-health or addiction and, in the case of children, deprivation and emotional, physical and sexual abuse. Affiliated Richmond Fellowship organizations exist in Austria, Australia, New Zealand, Malta, Israel, the United States, Peru, Jamaica, Grenada, Barbados, Peru, Costa Rica, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, China (Hong Kong), Macau and Zimbabwe.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

RFI sent a representative to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, on drugs (8-10 June 1998).

Other relevant activities

During the period 1997-2000 RFI endorsed, in all aspects of its work, the conviction of the General Assembly that all persons have the right to the best available mental health care, that those with mental illness should be treated with humanity and respect, and that every person with a mental illness shall have the right to live and work in the community.

RFI continues to undertake work in the Caribbean, Nepal and Peru on drug issues, particularly in the field of rehabilitation, and has expanded its work to include education and prevention activities, particularly in Jamaica and in Nepal.

In Nepal, RFI has been working with women addicts with a view to campaigning and informing women and girls of the health and related risks of substance abuse and addiction and of pursuing strategies and programmes that discourage substance abuse and addiction and which promote rehabilitation and recovery. RFI is assisting women and their informal organizations to establish effective peer education and outreach programmes and to participate in the design, implementation and monitoring of those programmes.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

RFI continues to consult with the UNDCP and the World Federation for Mental Health, particularly in the Caribbean and in South Asia, regarding its activities and possible collaborations, and to take an active interest in the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs and the Caribbean Drug Control Coordination Mechanism.

Field-level collaboration

RFI funds a regional coordinator in the Caribbean who is also the director of RF/Jamaica who seeks to make links and collaborate with RF organizations in the region, other non-governmental organizations and with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). In Nepal, education and prevention activities in the drug field are in line with UNDCP policy for South Asia.

10. Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Special consultative status granted in 1997

Grounded in Unitarian Universalist principles which affirm the worth, dignity and human rights of every person and the interdependence of all life, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a voluntary, non-sectarian organization working to advance justice throughout the world.

The following financial grants were made to project partners for travel and lodging to ensure their participation in United Nations activities:

- (a) Support of three Democratic Republic of the Congo human rights activists to be part of the International Human Rights Law Group delegation to the Commission on Human Rights session in Geneva, April 1997;
- (b) Sponsorship of the participation of two North-East Indian human rights activists at the Commission on Human Rights session in Geneva, July 1997;
- (c) Support for a Democratic Republic of the Congo woman activist to attend the 1997 session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women;
- (d) Support for the participation of Guatemalan and Mexican human rights activists to attend the International Seminar on Impunity and its Effect on the Democratic Process, in preparation for the March 1997 session of the Commission on Human Rights;
- (e) Support for the participation of the co-chair of the Committee on Indigenous People's Health from North-East India to attend the inter-sessional meeting of the Working Group on Indigenous People and consultative meetings with WHO in 1998;
- (f) Support for the participation of a North-East Indian human rights activist to participate in the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances and the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in Geneva during August 1998;
- (g) Support for two human rights activists from Chiapas, Mexico, to attend the April 1999 session of the Commission on Human Rights, in Geneva;
- (h) Support for two Mexican human rights activists to present information to the Commission on Human Rights, which was reviewing the forty-third Mexican periodical report on compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in July 1999 in Geneva;
- (i) Support for two Mexican human rights activists to participate in the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with regard to the review of the third report on Mexico's compliance with said covenant, in November 1999 in Geneva. During this visit, participate in and provide information to the Subcommission on Minorities;
- (j) Support for the participation of sex workers and anti-trafficking activists from Asia to participate at the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, in June 1999 in Geneva;
- (k) Support for the participation of a human rights activist from North-East India to participate at the Working Group on Enforced Disappearances and the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in August 1999 in Geneva;
- (l) Grant to two indigenous Mexican activists to attend the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, in August 1999 in Geneva;
- (m) Grant to the National Coordination of Indigenous Women to bring indigenous Mexican women from various States to meet with the Office of the

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights during her November 1999 visit to Mexico;

(n) Grant to Images Asia to prepare a report on Burma's compliance with CEDAW after ratification, working with women's groups to train them about CEDAW as well as train them to collect relevant information to put into their report to the CEDAW Committee;

(o) Support for two Mexican human rights activists to attend the meeting in August 2000 of the Commission on Human Rights.

Activities in implementation of United Nations resolutions (national level)

UUSC staffer was President of the National Committee on the Rights of the Child (1996-1997) and actively participated in the Washington Working Group on the Rights of the Child. The National Committee hosted forums on the Convention on the Rights of the Child at Howard University, Indiana University/Purdue and Georgetown University Law School.

From 1996 to 1999, UUSC participated in NGO meetings leading to the creation of a body to monitor United States government compliance with the Beijing Platform for Action.

A representative of UUSC met with the assistant to the United Nations Special Representative on Burma concerning United States policy.

UUSC advocated United States adherence to United Nations definitions of trafficking, at the quarterly meeting of the group sessions of the President's Interagency Council on Women (1997-1999).

UUSC responded to a March 1998 White House policy initiative on trafficking, urging the United States to coordinate with the United Nations in policy work.

UUSC joined joint NGO letters, 1997-1999, to the United States Congress and Executive Branch to encourage United States payment of arrears to the United Nations.

UUSC attended meetings from 1997 to 2000 with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and from 1998 to 1999, with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, during their respective visits to Washington, D.C.

UUSC attended meetings with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in February 1999.