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# **Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations 2003 regular session** 5-23 May 2003

# Quadrennial reports, 1998-2001, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

# Contents

		Page
1.	Association européenne contre les violences faites aux femmes au travail	2
2.	Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen	3
3.	Japanese Association of International Women's Rights	5
4.	Asociación Interamericana e Ibérica de Presupuesto Público	
5.	Society for Comparative Legislation	
6.	Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba	

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# 1. Association européenne contre les violences faites aux femmes au travail

### Special consultative status granted in 1998

The Association européenne contre les violences faites aux femmes au travail (AVFT) is an independent feminist organization which defends rights at work and the integrity of the person. Its sphere of action and thought is all forms of violence against women, although it specializes in condemning sexist and sexual violence in the workplace.

Its actions include intervening on behalf of victims of violence in order to reinstate them in their rights. It organizes campaigns to raise public awareness and train social actors in order to combat society's tolerance of such violence.

The Association's various actions also take place in a European and international context, mainly through our participation in conferences held under the auspices of the United Nations, and in the framework of the close relations which AVFT maintains with many non-governmental organizations.

# 1998 activities

The President participated in the forty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which focused on topics of particular importance to AVFT, such as "Human rights of women", "Violence against women" and "The girl child". Together with the International Federation of Human Rights, we drafted three texts on prostitution, which were disseminated to the official delegations.

# 1999 activities

The President participated in the forty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 1999) and in the supplementary session on the preparations for Beijing+5. She also closely monitored the deliberations of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and participated in all the workshops held on the topic in order to understand how it could be used by non-governmental organizations in France.

# 2000 activities

The President and a representative of AVFT attended the special session of the General Assembly (Beijing+5) held from 2 to 9 June. The Association participated in drafting a text entitled "Violence against women caucus statement", which was widely disseminated to the official delegations. Taking advantage of the presence of African non-governmental organizations at this special session, we had a number of contacts with them, and informed them of our project on establishing a network of French-speaking NGOs which share the goal of combating violence against girls and women.

The establishment of a joint information and action network is in progress. Knowledge of the realities of sexist and/or sexual violence and of the policies implemented or not implemented by States in each of the countries should make it possible to: identify innovative actions that may be transferable, and implement a common action strategy to put pressure on social and political actors to adopt a determined policy of combating violence.

This is a long-term project which takes into account the resources of the NGOs consulted. We were in fact rapidly faced with a shortage of financial resources.

# 2001 activities

We collaborated with a United Nations agency in Paris.

Representatives of AVFT conducted training sessions on preventing sexist and sexual violence in the workplace for the members of a panel entrusted with collecting grievances from female employees of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

On 8 March 2001 the President spoke at a round table on harassment organized by UNESCO for all its female employees.

As a Visiting Fellow in the Human Rights Program of Harvard University, the President was able to conduct research on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, mainly with a view to making the Convention better known in France, where it is never utilized.

## **Projects related to the United Nations**

At its twenty-ninth session in 2003, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women will consider the reports submitted by France pursuant to the Convention. Mindful that non-governmental organizations have a different approach to reality than the one described in the official report, AVFT hopes to draft and present an alternative report embodying the contributions of several French NGOs.

In addition, we will pursue the establishment of a network for exchanges and collaboration with African NGOs.

# 2. Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen

### Special consultative status granted in 1998

On 24 January 1989, 11 associations involved in senior citizen welfare work in Germany joined together and founded the Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen (BAGSO) as an umbrella organization of nationwide senior citizens' organizations. BAGSO is the representative of the older generations and a competent forum for initiatives by and for senior citizens. The executive committee of BAGSO, the national office and specialized committees coordinate matters of common interest and actively promote them in the political arena. Thus, they can give advice and improve all levels of welfare work. At present nearly 78 nationally active associations work together, representing over 12 million German senior citizens.

Two important International Years were observed in the period 1998-2001, the International Year of Older Persons (IYOP) and the International Year of Volunteers. On the recommendation of the United Nations, each of these was supported by a national office. BAGSO naturally placed particular emphasis on the preparation, realization and follow-up of the International Year of Older Persons 1999.

BAGSO also played a major part in the International Year of Volunteers 2001, especially in the context of the German parliamentary fact-finding commission on the future of civil volunteering.

A further point of emphasis was its participation in committees concerned with preparing the International Plan of Action on Ageing, on which work commenced as early as 1999. Right from the start, BAGSO was a readily available partner in the national workshops and supported the different stages of preparation with written position statements. In addition, BAGSO was represented in the German governmental delegation at the International Conference on Ageing in Madrid.

## 1998

BAGSO contributed in various committees and working groups for the preparation and realization of the IYOP National Committee, whose six working groups addressed the following themes: "Issues concerning demography and the solidarity between generations", "Social and political participation", "Issues concerning the economic situation", "Housing concepts of the future", "Researching the way in which seniors live" and "Issues regarding international senior policy".

BAGSO was an organizer of the following conferences: in March the multilateral conference of experts on IYOP, and in May the meeting of the IYOP National Committee.

#### 1999

BAGSO coordinated numerous IYOP projects. The position papers and documents published in 1999 confirm BAGSO's role as the representative of older persons in Germany.

BAGSO organized an event called "Old and young people in dialogue with MPs", held on 29 November at the Berlin Parliament. This event was one of the highlights of the International Year of Older Persons.

A series of large-scale projects were initiated or commissioned, dealing with various major issues, and were presented to a broad public.

BAGSO was represented in IYOP committees and participated in task forces.

BAGSO was an organizer of the international conference on the theme "A change of paradigm in senior aid", held in May.

BAGSO participated as an expert in national preparatory conferences. In December, at the brainstorming meeting for reviewing the International Plan of Action on Ageing, BAGSO made a statement of position regarding the implementation of the International Plan of Action.

## 2000

In the preparations for the International Year of Volunteers, BAGSO participated in the National Advisory Committee and in working groups on public relations, on the organization of volunteering and on local action.

In the preparations for the review of the International Plan of Action on Ageing, BAGSO participated in the workshop "Opportunities and risks for tomorrow's generation of seniors", held by the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, the purpose of which was to consider national emphasis in international recommendations.

# 2001

In the context of the International Year of Volunteers, BAGSO played a role as an expert witness in the German parliamentary fact-finding commission on the future of civil volunteering.

In the preparations for the International Plan of Action on Ageing, BAGSO took part in workshops to prepare a report of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

BAGSO was accredited for the NGO Forum of the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid.

BAGSO also took part in preparing the ECE Berlin Ministerial Conference on Ageing, held in September 2002.

# 3. Japanese Association of International Women's Rights

Special consultative status granted in 1998

# Introduction

The Japanese Association of International Women's Rights (JAIWR) is a Japanese NGO established in 1987. The Association's objective is to facilitate the advancement of women through research and dissemination of information on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was ratified by Japan in 1985.

This is JAIWR's first quadrennial report to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, and its activities relevant to the United Nations during the period from 1998 to 2001 are described below, in accordance with the guidelines for submission of quadrennial reports for NGOs in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The membership of JAIWR includes individuals in Japan and a few individuals residing in foreign countries. As at December 2001, our membership consisted of 223 persons. There was no substantial change in the organization's sources of funding or in affiliation to other international NGOs in consultative status in the reporting period.

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

JAIWR's representatives attended and monitored the United Nations conferences and meetings. Three representatives of JAIWR attended the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, "Women 2000".

Representatives monitored the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as follows: two representative at the eighteenth session, five representatives at the twentieth session, three representatives at the twenty-second session, one representative at the twenty-third session and four representatives at the twenty-fourth session.

Representatives monitored the Commission on the Status of Women as follows: one representative at the forty-second session, one representative at the forty-third session, seven representatives at the forty-fourth session and two representatives at the forty-fifth session.

The organization's President, Ryoko Akamatsu, a former CEDAW member, was invited to and attended the round table to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the CEDAW Convention on 7 June 1999 in New York.

A representative of JAIWR monitored the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) High-Level Intergovernmental Meeting to review the regional implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action from 26 to 29 October 1999 in Bangkok.

# **Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies**

JAIWR co-sponsored the International Symposium to Commemorate the Twentieth Anniversary of the Adoption of the CEDAW Convention with the United Nations Information Centre, Tokyo, at International House of Japan, in Tokyo, on 11 October 1999. The symposium was held in conjunction with the Third Ryoko Akamatsu Award Ceremony, and the recipient of the award, Ivanka Corti of Italy, then a member of CEDAW, made the keynote speech.

JAIWR was consulted by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women regarding the nomination of a Japanese woman judge as a representative to the judicial colloquium on the application of international human rights law at the domestic level, held in Vienna from 27 to 29 October 1999. The organization replied to the Division after searching for a suitable nominee.

# **Other relevant activities**

The organization organized various symposiums, seminars, and workshops to make the importance of the CEDAW Convention known to the wider public in Japan.

# Symposiums and lectures

- "Forum on the impact of the CEDAW Convention", with Hanna Beate Schöpp-Schilling of Germany, member of CEDAW, as the main speaker, KKR Hotel, Tokyo, 27 July 1998
- Symposium entitled "The United Nations, Human Rights, and Women: 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the CEDAW Convention", Tokyo Women's Plaza, Tokyo, 31 October 1998

- "Symposium to report on the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, 'Women 2000'", Kodomo no Shiro, 15 July 2000, Tokyo
- Lecture by Chikako Taya of Japan, then a member of CEDAW, on the occasion of the Fourth Ryoko Akamatsu Award Ceremony, Center for the Advancement of Working Women, 11 November 2000. Ms. Taya spoke on the CEDAW Convention and its Optional Protocol
- International symposium entitled "Agenda for Asian Women in the 21st Century: Labour, Education, and the CEDAW Convention", with Luvsandanzan Ider of Mongolia, the first CEDAW Chairperson, as the keynote speaker. The symposium was held as part of the Fifth Ryoko Akamatsu Award Ceremony, where Ms. Ider received the Award. International House of Japan, Tokyo, 1 December 2001

#### Seminars on United Nations activities on women

JAIWR held annual seminars, inviting members of, and Japanese official representatives to, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Commission on the Status of Women and Third Committee of the General Assembly to learn about the activities of those bodies. The seminars were held on 23 May 1998 at Forum Yokohama, Yokohama; on 22 May 1999 at Epoc 10, Tokyo; on 6 May 2000 at Epoc 10; and on 2 June 2001 at Epoc 10.

## Women 2000 workshop

JAIWR organized a workshop entitled "Women's Convention and Asian Women: Towards the Ratification of the Optional Protocol" on 4 June 2000 at the Manhattan Crown Plaza Hotel, New York, as part of NGO activities in relation to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. Speakers from Indonesia, Nepal, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America and Japan made reports on the status of implementation of the Convention and prospects for ratification of the Optional Protocol in each country.

#### **Educational workshops**

JAIWR held workshops including skits, slides, quizzes and lectures on the CEDAW Convention and its Optional Protocol in order to raise awareness about the content of the Convention and facilitate movement towards ratification of the Optional Protocol by the Japanese Government. Twelve workshops were held during the reporting period, in the Tokyo area and other cities in Japan.

## **Publications**

- *Kokusai Josei* (annual journal of the organization) No. 12, December 1998; No. 13, December 1999; No. 14, December 2000; and No. 15, December 2001
- Mother Tells about the Women's Convention (a picture book about the Convention, in English), 2000
- Yasashiku Manabou Josei no Kenri ("Lets Learn about Women's Rights", a booklet on the Convention, in Japanese), 2001

# 4. Asociación Interamericana e Ibérica de Presupuesto Público

# Special consultative status granted in 1984

# Aims and purposes

The Public Budget International Organization (ASIP) is a non-profit nongovernmental organization in consultative status, category II, with the Economic and Social Council, established in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1972, with the purpose of helping member countries modernize techniques used for budget development and design in the field of public policy and financial administration, at the national, provincial and municipal levels.

ASIP's membership has grown in number, and at present the institution has three important offices, in Madrid, Brasilia and Caracas. With the recent incorporation of Colombia, Cuba and Chile, all Latin American countries are now members of ASIP. Spain is also a member. ASIP also maintains institutional links with several countries, including Germany, Australia, Canada, the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India, Israel, New Zealand, Portugal, the Czech Republic, South Africa and Sweden. This has allowed ASIP to sponsor and/or participate in, along with institutions from those countries, a great number of seminars, courses and technical meetings, the main purpose of which is the training and education of officers.

The formal incorporation of new countries, such as Colombia, has allowed an enlargement of the institution's financing sources.

As from 1996, the International Journal of Public Budget — Revista Internacional de Presupuesto Público, issued every four months, and ASIP's Newsletter — Boletín are published in Spanish and English. This material is available on ASIP's web site.

# **Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies**

ASIP sponsored and took part in the seventh international course of the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning, which was held in Santiago de Chile in 1999, with the assistance of the ECLAC Executive Secretariat, the Public Management International Institute of the Government of France and the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Government of Spain.

ASIP took part in the XIII Regional Seminar on Fiscal Policy, organized by ECLAC in Santiago de Chile in 2000, and was invited to the board of international bodies to participate in the discussions. It was a member of the Organizing Committee, together with the International Monetary Fund's Fiscal Affairs Department, the World Bank Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Chief of the Inter-American Development Bank Fiscal Division.

# Activities of international cooperation, training and technical assistance, in accordance with Article 1, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations

## 1998

ASIP organized the XXV International Seminar on Public Budget in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in a joint effort with the Management and Budget Office of the Puerto Rican Government. The seminar was attended by more than 400 representatives from several countries and international bodies.

ASIP participated in the World Bank International Seminary, held in Mexico; the Government Finance Officers Association's annual Congress, held in San Francisco; the South African Institute of Municipal Finance Officers' annual Congress; and the Meeting of International Bodies of the Latin American Parliament, held in São Paulo.

# 1999

ASIP organized the XXVI International Seminar on Public Budget in Panama, together with the Panamanian Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Panamanian Public Budget Association. The President of Panama, Ernesto Pérez Balladares, outstanding lecturers, officers, representatives of international bodies and about 350 other people from several countries attended.

ASIP established the International Center for Public Policies, in a joint effort with the Latin American Parliament. The Center will be administered and managed by ASIP.

ASIP was invited to join the Technical Conference of the Inter-American Center of Tax Administrations, held in Porto, Portugal.

# 2000

ASIP organized the XXVII International Seminar on Public Budget in Madrid, in a joint effort with the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Spanish Government and the Spanish Public Budget Association. The Seminar was attended by more than 300 specialists from several countries.

ASIP sponsored and took part in the following activities: two Inter-American Intensive Training Courses on Financial Administration, organized every six months by the Argentine Secretariat of Finance, with the aim of improving management and promoting the discussion of public management in several American countries; the 1998-2001 Regional Training Program organized by the Central-American Institute for Public Administration and the German Foundation for International Development; the II International Meeting of Economists, organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Economists and the Cuban National Association of Economists, held in Havana.

# 2001

ASIP organized the XXVIII International Seminar on Public Budget in Tegucigalpa, in a joint effort with the Government of Honduras, and the Honduran Public Budget Association. The Constitutional President of Honduras, Carlos Roberto Flores, the Minister of Finance, Gabriela Núñez de Reyes, and more than 400 other participants from several countries, outstanding lecturers, American and European government officers and representatives of international bodies attended.

ASIP organized the I Mercosur Seminar on budget harmonization among Mercosur Ministries of Foreign Affairs, in Puerto Iguazú, Argentina, with the assistance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina.

ASIP organized, sponsored and/or participated in the following events: the Seminar on Financial Programming, organized by the Training and Study Centre of the Argentine Secretariat of Finance; the IV National Seminar on Public Budget, in Paraguay, organized by the Paraguayan Public Budget Association and the National University of Asunción, with the sponsorship of the Paraguayan Ministry of Finance; an international conference in Lima, on State powers and financial administration, organized by ASIP, the Economic and Social Development Centre of the German Foundation for International Development and the National Budget Board of the Peruvian Ministry of Economy and Finance; the III Meeting of General Directors of Budget from Central America and Panama, organized by the Central American Institute for Public Administration; and the XIV Meeting on Public Budget in Uruguay, organized by the Uruguayan Association of Accountancy and Public Budget.

# 5. Society for Comparative Legislation

# Special consultative status granted in 1950

The Society for Comparative Legislation, an association under the 1901 Law, founded in 1869, has as its purpose the "Study and comparison of the law and laws of different countries and research into practical methods of improving the various branches of legislation" (article 1 of its by-laws). Its members are judicial and administrative magistrates, academics and researchers, business counsel and lawyers in France and abroad (42 countries). The Society organizes symposiums in France and abroad on current topics. It edits and publishes the quarterly *Revue internationale de droit comparé* and publishes monographs (two to four per year). The Society's resources consist of membership dues, State subsidies and sales of its publications. The Society is a member of a research team based at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France); it also has consultative status with the Council of Europe and the International Labour Office.

Professor George A. Bermann of Columbia University is the Society's accredited representative to the United Nations in New York and participates in the sessions to which he is invited.

The Society maintains relations with the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations in Milan.

Nevertheless, the Society has not been able to satisfy United Nations requests as fully as it would have liked, for several reasons: (a) the United Nations documents inviting it to take part in meetings are often received at the Society's headquarters too late for it to designate a representative; (b) the Society's means are modest and do not permit it to pay for long-distance travel for its representatives; (c) it has not received any recent requests for completion of surveys or questionnaires on its activities, although it is prepared to respond to them when the occasion arises, as it has in the past; (d) all the United Nations documents it receives are entered, filed and made available to the readers in its library on rue Saint-Guillaume.

The Society for Comparative Legislation, publisher of the *Revue internationale de droit comparé*, publishes articles in areas of particular interest to the United Nations, e.g., in 1998: "La constitutionnalisation du principe d'égalité hommes/ femmes en Suisse" (pp. 67-92); "Protection de la personne dans le domaine de la recherche médicale" (pp. 383-402); in 1999: "La Convention européenne des droits de l'homme et le juge en France et aux Pays-Bas" (pp. 7-28); "La lutte contre le racisme par le droit en France et au Royaume-Uni" (pp. 347-368); in 2000: "La protection de la dignité de la personne en biomédicine: la Convention d'Oviedo" (pp. 317-415); "La surveillance vidéo et le droit à la vie privée au Canada et au Québec" (pp. 581-605); in 2001: "Reconnaissance du droit au consentement en matière biomédicale en droit comparé" (pp. 385-405).

# Activities of the Society for Comparative Legislation

#### Monographs published since 1998

In 1998: "Actualités de la propriété dans les pays de l'Europe centrale et orientale et en Chine" (ISBN 2-908199-09-2, 145 pp.); "Le droit nucléaire: du 20<sup>e</sup> au 21<sup>e</sup> siècle. Nuclear Inter Jura 97" (ISBN 2-908199-10-16, 583 pp.); "Juges et jugements: l'Europe plurielle. L'élaboration de la décision de justice en droit comparé" (ISBN 2-908199-14-2, 111 pp.); "La présomption d'innocence en droit comparé" (ISBN 2-908199-12-2, 100 pp.); in 1999: "Etudes de droit japonais", vol. 2 (ISBN 2-908199-15-7, 240 pp.); in 2000: "D'ici, d'ailleurs: Harmonisation et dynamique du droit. Mélanges en l'honneur de Denis Tallon" (ISBN 2-908199-13-0, 362 pp.); "L'avenir du droit comparé: un défi pour les juristes du nouveau millénaire" (ISBN 2-908199-16-5, 347 pp.); "L'Europe des moyens de paiement à l'heure de l'euro et de l'Internet" (ISBN 2-908199-17-3, 221 pp.); in 2001: "Les médiateurs en France et à l'étranger" (ISBN 2-908199-18-1, 110 pp.); "Variations autour d'un droit commun" (ISBN 2-908199-19-X, 157 pp.); "Le droit indien en marche" (ISBN 2-908199-20-3, 308 pp.).

#### Symposiums held since 1998

In 1998: "Seminar on environmental law" (France-Lebanon, Beirut, 19-20 February); "Freedom in public, economic and private law" (France-India, New Delhi-Pondicherry, 15-22 November); in 1999: "Medical liability" (France-Lebanon, Kaslik, 18-19 February); "Commercial relations between France and Taiwan" (France-Taiwan, Paris, 9 April); "New information technologies" (France-Italy, Courmayeur, 10-13 June); "The European Convention on Human Rights" (France-Romania, Strasbourg, 18-20 November); in 2000: "Information" (France-Nordic countries, Helsinki, 7-11 June); "The transposition of European directives" (France-Germany, Trèves, 22-25 June); "Banking and financial risk in China and France" (France-China, Paris, 16-25 October); in 2001: "Relations between European and MERCOSUR enterprises" (France-Latin America, Rio de Janeiro, 5-7 March); "The family in France and Japan" (France-Japan, Tokyo-Sapporo, 25 September-2 October); "Electronic commerce and law" (France-Italy, Montpellier, 8-9 November).

# 2002 programme

Publications: "La famille en France et au Japon, Variations autour d'un droit commun"; Symposiums: "Equality in public, economic, private and family law" (France-India, Montpellier, 29 April-3 May); "Equity or equities" (France-Lebanon and Islamic countries, Paris, 3-4 October); "Enterprises and competition" and "Titles" (France-China, Beijing-Shanghai, 15-24 October).

Within the limits of its resources, the Society always takes into consideration the priorities for action of the United Nations and seeks to participate in them. It remains fully prepared to engage in closer cooperation with the United Nations.

# 6. Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba

## Special consultative status granted in 1998

The special consultative status of the Unión de Escritores y Artistas de Cuba (UNEAC) was ratified in September 1998, by which time it had taken part in the Copenhagen Summit and the Beijing World Conference. In Cuba in 1997 the Union had put on an exhibition on AIDS, jointly with the regional office of UNESCO in Havana, and had arranged an exhibition of drawings on the rights of the child with UNICEF.

In the present report UNEAC gives information on its activities that have to do with its participation in and support for the work of the United Nations in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001 and provides a table showing its current membership, with a breakdown by gender, artistic discipline and geographic distribution. UNEAC is now a nationwide organization that also has a small group of honorary members representing other countries and that has made four videos on subjects of interest to the United Nations. These are enclosed as a contribution.

UNEAC, founded on 22 August 1961, is a non-profit society that selects its members according to their artistic curriculum vitae. It has 5,813 members, both in its Havana headquarters and in its 14 provincial branches.

# Aims and objectives

- To contribute to the safeguarding of Cuban cultural identity; to create the moral and material conditions necessary for artistic and literary creation and to that end to organize domestic and international events that help develop critical thinking
- To develop new artistic and literary talent and to strengthen ties with universities, foundations and NGOs all over the world in order to make it easier for members to have direct contact with the best artists from all countries

# Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary agencies

- In June Lizette Vila Espina, president of the Radio, Cinema and Television Association, and Estrella Morejón Leyva attended the NGO Committee meeting, where they submitted and defended UNEAC arguments supporting its application for consultative status.
- Ms. Vila Espina and Ms. Morejón Leyva attended the forty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 1999; the forty-fourth session in March 2000; the forty-fifth session in March 2001; and the forty-sixth session in March 2002.
- Gisela Arandia Covarrubia, a researcher and vice-president of the Critics Section of UNEAC's Radio, Cinema and Television Association, took part in a conference of the Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations of the Americas Forum in Chile in December 2000.
- Ms. Arandia Covarrubia took part in both the August 2001 World Conference against Racism and the NGO Forum held in Durban, South Africa, as well as the Experts Seminar held in Honduras under the auspices of the Minorities Group, on the invitation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- In May 1999, UNEAC sent a proposal for a permanent Workshop on Culture, Gender and Creative Diversity to Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the NGO Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The idea behind this was to increase awareness of the work of women artists in Cuban society and elsewhere in the world. The project has been financed by the Humanist Institute for Cooperation for Development from the Netherlands and the NGO Oxfam Canada.
- The book *Peace Does not Need Doves, It Needs Us* is currently being edited. It is one of the projects to come out of the aforementioned workshop.
- In May 2000, UNEAC sent the NGO Liaison Officer in Geneva a written contribution to the World Conference against Racism.
- In September 2000, UNEAC sent Estefania Grant, head of research and the right to development, to the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva with a written submission and a video. These show how the problem of AIDS is handled in Cuba and the thorough treatment given to those who have the disease.
- Lizette Vila Espina took part in the June 2000 World Women's March for Peace, held in New York.
- In July, UNEAC sent drawings by a number of girls and boys for the mural cosponsored by UNICEF and South Korea; the mural was on display in the lobby of the United Nations building.
- In May 2001 UNEAC sent a video about physically challenged girls and boys to Kul C. Gautam, Joint Executive Director of UNICEF headquarters in Havana.

# **Cooperation with United Nations agencies and other specialized agencies**

- Miguel Barnet Lanza, renowned Cuban author, social anthropologist and Vice-President of UNEAC, who became President of the Fernando Ortiz Foundation five years ago, is a member of the Executive Committee of UNESCO and a member of the International Scientific Committee of the Slave Route.
- In May 2001, UNEAC made an application to Ms. Nedia Ferrer, head of the NGO and Foundations Relations Section, to have operational relations established between itself and UNESCO. The application has not yet been approved.
- In July 2001, UNEAC received financing from IPDC Project 353.CUB 01 for a joint project with the local community for strengthening programming in provincial telecentres.

# Other pertinent activities

- UNEAC is a member of the Executive Committee of the Cuban United Nations Associations and takes part in the systematic debate of the items on the United Nations agenda.
- In May 1999, UNEAC welcomed Radhike Coomarswamy from Sri Lanka to its headquarters. She is the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women of the Commission on Human Rights. During her visit, Ms. Coomarswamy and UNEAC discussed the subject of violence.
- UNEAC was the venue for workshops and lectures held to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. For the fiftieth anniversary of UNICEF, there was a concert given by Cuban pianist Frank Fernández and a reading of a play in the UNESCO concert hall.
- In 1999, Josef Egger, Artistic Director of the United Nations Symphony Orchestra visited UNEAC.
- In 1999, UNEAC took part in the Latin America-Caribbean International Meeting on Cultural Tourism, which was sponsored by UNESCO's regional office.
- In the spring of 1999, UNEAC's Radio, Cinema and Film Association oversaw the production of a nine-part feature on Cuban women and the problems of women all over the world. it was called *Our Gaze*.
- Since 1999 UNEAC's Santa Cecilia Women's Group has trained more than 300 women to make patchwork items, thus creating a source of employment for them.
- In 2000, UNEAC, through its Cuban Colour Project, set out to get people to give more thought to multiracialism in Cuban culture.
- In July 2001, UNEAC organized the Cuban Conference that preceded the Durban World Conference against Racism. More than 100 Cuban delegates and Palmira Rioa from the University of Puerto Rico, Romero Rodríquez from the

Mundo Afro Organization of Uruguay and Celeo Álvarez from the Afro-Honduran organization ODECO took part in the former.

- The following videos have been made: "Woman with No Face", "One Woman against Silence", "Thank You Life" and "The Day You Love Me".
- UNEAC complies fully with the provisions and resolutions of the United Nations and tries to ensure they are complied with in Cuba.

# **5** Distribution of members by associations, provinces and sex

	Musicians			Writers			Visual artists			Theatre artists			Radio, cinema, TV			Total	
	М	F		М	F		М	F		М	F		М	F		М	F
Associations	242	533	775	234	552	786	133	589	722	434	521	955	303	713	1 016	1 346 2 908	
Pinar del Río	1	17	18	2	20	22	1	21	22	4	8	12	2	14	16	10	80
Havana	3	29	32	1	10	11	2	37	39	5	7	12	6	6	12	17	89
Matanzas	7	28	35	7	17	24	2	61	63	9	14	23	5	14	19	30	134
Cienfuegos	2	23	25	2	8	10	2	26	28	8	10	18	2	8	10	16	75
Villa Clara	6	15	21	7	27	34	8	33	41	11	18	29	10	32	42	42	125
Sancti Spíritus	1	20	21	2	19	21	1	19	20	3	4	7	1	6	7	8	68
Ciego de Ávila	1	8	9	5	13	18	2	18	20	0	9	9	0	8	8	8	56
Camagüey	4	23	27	2	16	18	8	33	41	14	25	39	3	15	18	31	112
Las Tunas	1	12	13	4	13	17	1	16	17	5	2	7	0	4	4	11	47
Holguín	7	22	29	4	20	24	6	47	53	17	25	42	5	20	25	39	134
Granma	2	14	16	4	14	18	0	18	18	4	16	20	5	14	19	15	76
Santiago de Cuba	8	36	44	6	23	29	7	61	68	17	38	55	5	46	51	43	204
Guantánamo	2	10	12	3	5	8	2	19	21	1	4	5	5	5	10	13	43
Isla de la Juventud	0	3	3	0	2	2	0	14	14	3	6	9	2	3	5	5	28