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# Note by the Secretary-General

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# 1. China Disabled Persons' Federation\*

## (Special consultative status granted in 1998)

The China Disabled Persons' Federation (CDPF) has actively, as always, promoted and protected the equal rights of 60 million persons with various disabilities in China since its special consultative status with UNECOSOC was granted in 1998. In the reporting period, the representatives of CDPF participated in and contributed to a number of UN events on social development and human rights including regional activities hosted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP. CDPF has also held activities in disability field, in response of the call of the UN. In addition, CDPF hosted a world NGO summit on the rights of persons with disabilities at which a declaration was adopted. CDPF cooperated with UN secretariat and agencies in convening workshops, publishing UN instruments. Representatives of CDPF consulted with leaders of UN secretariat.

- 1. CDPF, ratified by the Chinese Government, is a unified national organization of and for persons with various disabilities. The aim of CDPF is to promote humanitarianism, develop disability movement, protect and protect human rights of persons with disabilities so as to enabling them to participate in society with equal status and opportunities and share the cultural and material achievements brought about by the socio-economic development.
- 2. Representatives of CDPF have participated in many conferences or meetings held by ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies including:
  - The 37<sup>th</sup>, 38<sup>th</sup> and 39<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Commission for Social Development as Advisor on Disability, Chinese Delegation, New York, Feb. 1999, 2000, 2001;
  - The 55<sup>th</sup>, 56<sup>th</sup> and 57<sup>th</sup> Sessions of the Commission for Human Rights in 1999, 2000, 2001 in Geneva;
  - The Millennium NGO Forum, New York; May 2000;
  - Geneva 2000, Geneva, Jun. 2000;
  - Special Session for Social Development of GA, UN, Geneva, Jun. 2000;
  - The Informal Consultative Meeting on the Norms and Standards for Persons with Disabilities hosted by the Division for Social Policy and development, UN Secretariat, New York, Feb. 2001;
  - The Informal Consultative Meeting on the Norms and Standards for Persons with Disabilities convened by the Commission for Human Rights, Geneva, April 2001;
  - The Expert Group Meeting on the Disability Awareness Education of Public Servants hosted by ESCAP, Bangkok, Dec. 2001;
- 3. The CDPF has cooperated with UN Secretariat and agencies in hosting activities, workshops, translating and publishing UN documents concerning disability, including:
  - Activities on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December each year from 1998-2002, International Day of Disabled Persons hosted by CDPF, its member organizations and local federations hosted;
  - Chinese version of Promotion of Non-Handicapping Physical Environment for Disabled Persons: Guidelines translated and published by CDPF in close cooperation with ESCAP in 1998;
  - Chinese version of ASSISTING DISABLED PERSONS IN HNDING EMPLOYMENT A practical guide translated and published by CDPF in 1999, translation fee was provided by ILO;

<sup>\*</sup> Issued without formal editing.

- Workshop on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities convened jointly by CDPF and ILO, Kunming, Yunnan Province, China 1999.
- 4. Leaders of CDPF have met and consulted on disability related concerns with high ranking officials of the UN Secretariat in many occasions, including:
  - Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of UN, (consultation was done and the *Beijing Declaration on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the New Century* submitted), during the Special Session of GA of the United Nations on Social Development, Geneva, Jun. 2000;
  - Mr. Desai, Associate Secretary General of UN, during the Special Session of GA of the United Nations on Social Development, Geneva, Jun. 2000;
  - Ms. Louise Frechette, Deputy Secretary General of UN when the Chinese Disabled People's Performing Art Troupe visited New York, Sep. 2000;
  - Mr. Bengt Lindqvist, Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development of the United Nations, during his visit in China, 2001.

# 2. Chinese Immigrants Services\*

#### (Special consultative status granted in 1998)

Chinese Immigrants Services, Inc. (CIS) was recognized by the United States Internal Revenue Service under IRA Code Section 501 [c] [3] as a non-profit organization founded to promote cultural awareness and exchange in hopes to erase misconceptions and stereotypes of Asian immigrants, especially Asian women. Consisting of an all-volunteer staff, CIS helps immigrants adjust to main society through educational programs offered to the general public, free of charge. A main component of the organization is its Women's Network. CIS encourages women to expand their horizons by enrolling in classes that develop leadership skills, and participating in community and social activities. To promote racial harmony in many diverse communities, CIS, striving to fight for equal rights for all immigrants, also added a Latino Division in 2001.

Each year, CIS serves about 10,000 people both directly and indirectly. The organization receives about 1000 to 2500 cases involving injustice, violence, cheating, etc. Since 1996, the organization has also trained about 4000 Health Aids. CIS serves mostly immigrants with low income. It does not ask anyone to join a membership list or pay fees for services.

However, personal information is kept on file. CIS has been featured in hundreds of articles and news media reports. The history of CIS has also been made into two TV movies. One has aired in China, the other in Taiwan Province of China. This year, CIS was featured in CADEC Pictures in Frankfurt, Germany. Today, CIS is the most well known international organization in the Chinese community, and the most trusted among immigrants.

Since its beginning in 1946, the organization wanted to change the stereotype that Asians only take from the system and never give back. That is why the organization never asked for money from the government. All funding came from private donations. Since 1995, former Councilwoman Harrison, and former Borough President Shulman have generously donated \$2500 to \$10,000 city funds without request of CIS. The New York State government has also funded \$15,000 per year. However, since September 11, 2001, all public funding for the organization has ceased. Today it is, once again, solely funded by private donations. Starting 2003, CIS plans to change its funding policy. It is now looking to develop a specific funding department, and ask for grants from the government. As older volunteers are retiring, new employees need to be trained to continue the services of CIS. These younger employees will require wages and salaries.

<sup>\*</sup> Issued without formal editing.

Chinese Immigrants Services, Inc. (CIS) received Special Consultative Status in 1998. According to the chairperson's memory and conference diary, since then, the organization has attended every United Nations conference that it was informed of by the NGO sisters. There are only two exceptions. One conference was not attended because CIS had already made plans to attend a Summit in Hong Kong, China, at the same time. The second was not attended because the letter with registration information was received after the due date.

The following is a list of conferences attended, starting with the most recent.

At United Nations Headquarters, New York:

- 2001 September 10: The 54<sup>th</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference, NGOs Today: Diversity of the Volunteer Experience.
- 2001 June 11-15: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children.
- 2001 March 6-16: The 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the status of Women.
- 2001 January 29-Febuary 2: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly in 2001 for Follow-up to the World Summit for Children.
- 2000 November 28: Opening Ceremony of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV) 2001.
- 2000 October 14: A Forum on the Eradication of Poverty: NGOs' Perspectives *In Commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty*.
- 2000 August 28-30: The United Nations Department of Public Information 53d Annual DPI/NGO Conference, Global Solidarity: The Way to Peace and International Cooperation.
- 2000 June 5-9: Women 2000: Beijing Plus 5 Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly.
- 2000 May 30-June 2: First Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly in 2001 for Follow-up for the World Summit for Children.
- 2000 May 17: UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women).
- 2000 March 4: NGO CSW Committee Consultation.
- 1999 March 1-19: The 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the United Nation Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).
- 1999 March 1-19: Pacific Women Speak Out for Independence and Denuclearisation.
- 19998 March 2: Commission on the Status of Women.

Two representatives of CIS also attended a conference in Geneva on 2001 March. According to the chairperson, the date is either 7 or 17. Because the two representatives are not in the country, they cannot be reached.

In 1986, the China Federation of Women, located in Beijing, invited the Women's Network, now a division of CIS, for a 17-day visit to China. There, the organization met with many other women's groups. After this trip, the Women's Network frequently returned to China. Each year, the Network attends many conferences with several other women's groups from different Chinese provinces. Sometimes, the network also hosts conferences in the United States when these other organizations are here. Every year, CIS also joins the New York City Commission of Women to celebrate International Women's Day.

Over the years, CIS has gotten to know many national organizations and government agencies in the United States. However, the organization does not know which, if any, of these organizations are members of the NGO.

CIS hosts many programs with themes relevant to United Nations issues. The organization believes that any women's movement must start with the community. In many Chinese communities, men keep traditional, inaccurate conceptions of women, marriage and sex. Some of these misconceptions are shared by older people and women as well.

From the beginning, CIS led women to fight these misconceptions, and for their rights and privileges by dispensing information through hosting workshops and other such programs on women's issues. At first, these programs were attacked by men. Today, after 18 years, every one of the original programs has been followed by other organizations. Now many women are also leaders in the community. The success of CIS programs has been widely publicized in New York newspapers, and other news media in the Chinese community.

CIS is also affiliated with UNIFIM, UNICEF and CONGO.

In the past, CIS has sent a written paper to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The topic suggests that the United Nation should pay more attention to immigrant communities.

According to CIS check returns, CIS donated \$850 to the NGO. The Women's Network's sister organization, Queens Chinese Women's Association (which has the same founder as CIS) also donated \$350, adding to a total of \$1,150. When board members pay for UNIFIM and UNICEF activities, they pay for themselves. Therefore, CIS has no record of their financial donations.

CIS sponsors two studies. The first is "Social and Political Changes in Queens Chinese-American Women". The second analyzes the reasons for domestic violence. CIS will also produce a booklet called "Getting to Know America" in December 2002. A research survey on Chinese women living in the United States, focusing on Chinese families, will also be published at this time.

# 3. Croatian World Congress\*

#### (Special consultative status granted in 1998)

The Croatian World Congress (CWC) is an international organization with national congresses in 31 countries totaling a membership of about 140,000 people, networking Croatian national organizations and clubs among themselves and other organizations. The goal of the Croatian World Congress is to immerse Croatian societies in multinational, multiethnic, and multicultural societies in other countries around the world and to contribute to a sustainable multinational world society. Since its origin, the focus of the organization has been to raise the consciousness of Croatians all over the world about the culture, history, and actual standing of Croatians in today's global environment.

The Croatian World Congress has also been involved in organizing programs and developing projects around issues related to human rights, international law, and education, with emphasis on assisting in finding solutions for all parties in the Balkan conflicts.

The Croatian World Congress has been very active in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations as well as other U.N. activities. The following are brief highlights of some of these activities.

#### Participation in activities of the Committee on Health and Communication/NY -

Representatives of the Croatian World Congress from New York served on the Executive Committee of the Health and Communication Committee of the CONGO Committees of Substance. The CWC was active in the work of this committee in the year 2000 and 2001 and CWC representatives were involved with the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, the American Cancer Society, the AIDS Institute, as well as other civil organizations. Some of the work was centered around women's health issues and educational programs. The representatives addressed the challenging questions arising from communication of health information and organized many briefings on various topics concerning health at the U.N. in New York City.

**Mental Health Activities - ECOSOC -** Croatian World Congress representatives in New York served on the Executive Committee on Mental Health and co-sponsored a conference on November 8, 2001 with the U.N. NGO Committee on Mental Health.

<sup>\*</sup> Issued without formal editing.

There was a round table meeting concerning refugees at the U.N. in NY and the CWC moderated the Conference Commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the U.N. Commission for Refugees. The conference, "Refugees: Repatriation and Reconciliation" addressed issues such as mental health, trauma, conflict resolution, repatriation, and reconciliation. Contributing organizations were the International Rehabilitation Center for Tortured Victims (IRCT- Zagreb, Croatia), Howard Medical School, Palestinian Red Crescent Society, UN/NGO Committee on Mental Health, and the CWC.

**United Nations Commissions -** CWC representatives are active members of the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women, and World Speakers on behalf of women's rights.

Our representative, Dr. Gilda Alarcon Glasinovich, contributed greatly to issues dealing with immigrant women, with emphasis on domestic violence and health care access.

**International Law - ECOSOC -** On April 16,2002 at the U.N. in NYC, the CWC co-sponsored a conference along with the World Federalist Associations, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Jews Against Genocide, International Alliance for Women, and several other NGOs. The meeting addressed the immediate creation of the first permanent International Criminal Court (ICC).

**Cultural Activities - ECOSOC -** The CWC co-sponsored the United Nations Day Celebration in NYC on October 24, 1999. The CWC represented the European contingent and participated in the cultural program with a presentation of Croatian folklore and songs. The speakers included Mr. Haroldt H. Urib the President of the General Assembly and Mr. Mario Viscovich the CWC Main Representative to the U.N.

In 1998, 1999,2000, and 2001 the CWC co-sponsored and participated in, along with other ECOSOC organizations, in the Multicultural Parade in NYC in June. In September of 1998,1999,2000, and 2001, the CWC co-sponsored and participated in, along with other ECOSOC NGO organizations, the Multiethnic International Festival in NYC.

Millennium Forum - May 22,2000 in NYC - ECOSOC The CWC participated in the forum with an input to the resolution in the area of a world justice and economics, and sustainable development, which was included in the final resolution.

#### **Miscellaneous Activities**

- Served as consultants to the governments of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in matters pertaining to human rights in trying to resolve the multiethnic conflicts in former Yugoslavia.
- Participated in the UN Caucus of NGOs sponsored by the International Immigrants Foundation relating to the rights of immigrants.
- Disseminated information about the goals, programs, projects, and activities of CWC throughout the world through publications. Journals in which we publish include *Congress* (Geneva), *Croatian-American Times* (NYC), *Vecerni List- Dom i Svjet* (Zagreb), as well as numerous local publications in numerous countries.
- Two conferences a year in Croatia gathering Croatians from all over the world to share information to be disseminated all over the world.
- CWC member and active participant, Dr. Gilda Alarcon Glasinovic, received the 1999 "Remarkable Women of the Year" awarded by the Women's Federation for World Peace, the City of New York honored her for "Outstanding Public Service" and the Women's Media Consortium recognized her effort in changing the way media portrays women with the 'New Voice Prize." During Women's Month 2000, New York State Senate proclaimed Dr. Glasinovic as a "hidden heroine for NYC communities." She has also received congressional recognition for her significant contributions to women's rights.
- Participated in East European Conference (CONGO) in April 2001 in Romania.
- Active participant in V-Day, Madison Square Garden in NYC in January 2001. The theme was Human Rights and Domestic Violence.

- March 8, 2001 in NYC for International Women's Day, participated in round table and Peace Conference with the theme being "Sisterhood, Relationship, and World Peace Ceremony."
- Members of and frequent participant in ECOSOC and CONGO Sustainable Development Committee and Youth Committee in NY and Geneva.
- Speakers at "Amnesty 2000 Vigil" in NYC June 15, 1999 rights of immigrants.
- Contributed for material on Ageing to be presented in Madrid in February 2002, Second World Assembly on Ageing.

It is the goal of the CWC to carry out the mission of assisting the U.N. in eliminating racial, ethnic, and religious intolerance and violations of human rights, and to promote sustainable development and a clean environment.

# 4. General Confederation of Trade Unions\*

# (Special consultative status granted in 1998)

#### **Introductory Statement**

The GCTU is a non-commercial regional trade union organization affiliating national trade union centers in 10 countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS): Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Ukraine; and 37 industrial trade union international of the region, with a total membership of almost 90 million people.

The GCTU enjoys financial independence and operates exclusively on the basis of its Constitution. It has been recognized as a partner by the CIS Councils of Heads of State and Heads of Government, and has observer status with the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, the CIS Economic Council; and other bodies of the Commonwealth.

The aim of the Confederation is to promote and protect trade union freedoms and human rights, and worker's rights and interests in the CIS and elsewhere in the world. It mobilizes its affiliates in support of the goals of sustainable and social development and social justice.

The Confederation promotes the ideals and activities of the United Nations within the trade union movement of the CIS, and has almost a ten-year record of co-operation with the ECOSOC and UN specialized agencies dealing with social problems.

#### Participating in the ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies

Over the reporting period, the GCTU has contributed to the work of the Economic and Social Council, first of all through participating in the sessions of the following social commissions where it made presentations of the joint position of its member organizations on the topics discussed:

- <u>Commission for Social Development</u> Sessions NoNo 36 (New York, February 1998), 37 (New York, February 1999), 38 (New York, February 2000), and 39 (New York, February 2001).
- <u>Commission on the Status of Women</u> Sessions NoNo 42 (New York, March 1998), 43 (New York, March 1999), 44 (New York, February-March 2000), and 45 (New York, March 2001).

The Confederation took part in the preparations for the Special Sessions of the UN General Assembly "Copenhagen+5" and "Beijing+5". Its representatives presented the GCTU's views, comments and analyses of the processes at:

<sup>\*</sup> Issued without formal editing.

• The 1<sup>st</sup> substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the UNGA on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives (New York, May 1999): International Consultation concerning Follow-up on the World Summit for Social Development. (Geneva, November 1999); Consultation on the Follow-up to the Summit for Social Development for Selected Central and Eastern European Countries (Budapest, Hungary, January, 1999); Preparatory Committee for the UNGA Special Session on the follow-up to the World Conference on Women "Women-2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" (New York, March 2000).

The GCTU attended the Special Session of the UN General Assembly on "Women-2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" (New York, June 2000), and the events organized by NGO's in its connection. Unfortunately, for unexpected reasons of objective nature, it could not participate, as was planned, in the Special Session of the UNGA "Copenhagen+5" in Geneva.

On the occasion of both Sessions, the Confederation issued, publicized and circulated special policy statements.

#### Co-operation with UN bodies and specialized agencies

As an international NGO, the GCTU is in association with the UN Department of Public Information and enjoys European regional status with the International Labour Organization.

In such capacities, the Confederation participated over the period in:

#### UN DPI events:

- The 51<sup>st</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference "The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: from Words to Deeds" (New York, September 1998);
- the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference "Meeting the Challenges of a Globalized World" (New York, September 1999);
- the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference "NGO's Today: Diversity of Volunteer Experience" (New York, September 2001).

#### ILO events:

The 86<sup>th</sup> (June 1998), 87<sup>th</sup> (June 1999), 88<sup>th</sup> (June 2000) and 89<sup>th</sup> (June 2001) sessions of the International Labour Conference in Geneva; the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Labour Statistics (Geneva, October 1998); the Second Enterprise Forum (Geneva, November 1999); the ILO Sixth European Regional Meeting (Geneva, December 2000); the International Symposium to Strengthen Worker's Participation in the UN System and Impact on Bretton Woods Institutions (Geneva, September 2001); the World Employment Forum (Geneva, November 2001), and many other ILO events.

#### Other relevant activities

Over the reporting period, the GCTU has regularly provided union media support for major UN observances, events and initiatives, particularly for those dealing with socio-economic and humanitarian problems.

Over the period under review, the Confederation has issued and publicized statements calling upon its members to mark different UN-proclaimed observances, such as:

The International Children's Day (1998); the International Day for the Elderly (1998 & 1999); the World Environment Day (1998); the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (1998, 1999 & 2000); the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (1999); the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1998); the International Women's Day (1998, 1999, 2000 & 2001); the International Year of Older Persons, etc.

For this purpose, it made wide use of its own publications, such as the monthly "Profsoyuzy" ("Trade Unions"), the biweekly "Vestnik profsoyuzov" (Trade Union Herald"), the quarterly "InformContact", etc.

GCTU officials made regular reference to UN policies and important decisions concerning social and related problems in their radio and television interviews. UN Policies were also a frequent item on the agendas of different conferences and seminars organized by the Confederation.

The GCTU has been contributing to the work of the UN Association in Russia and the UN Information Centre in Moscow. It was an active regular participant of the annual meetings of Moscow-based NGO's in consultative status with the ECOSOC. In October 2001, together with other such NGO's the GCTU signed an appeal to the Governments, employers and trade unions in the CIS urging them to support the UN Secretary-General's initiative on the Global Compact.

# 5. International Union of Psychological Science\*

# (Special consultative status granted in 1998)

The International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS) is an organization composed of 68 National Member organizations (national societies/associations/committees of scientific psychology and national academies of science), and 12 Affiliated International and/or Regional Organizations (see Annex I), representing more than 1/2 million psychologists in all regions of the world. The general aim of IUPsyS is the development of psychological science, whether biological or social, normal or abnormal, pure or applied. One of its goals is to collaborate with other international and national organizations in matters of mutual interest, and to engage in such other activities as will further the development of the science of psychology and the betterment of mankind.

#### Participation in the activities of ECOSOC and other UN meetings

#### 1998:

- Main goal for 1998: set up in New York a team of local representatives. Main representative: Dr. Michel Sabourin; with Drs. Emily Garrod and Thomas Inck.
- Sept. 14 to 16: the Secretary General of IUPsyS attended the 51<sup>st</sup>. Annual DPI/NGO Conference, held at the UN Secretariat in New York.
- Participation in the monthly meetings of the NGO Committee on Mental Health (a CONGO Committee, comprising NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC and working in the area of mental health), as well the NGO Committee on Health. We have continued to do so regularly throughout the 1998-2001 Quadrennium.

#### 1999:

- January 19<sup>th</sup> to February 5: attendance at UN Secretariat of many meetings of the 20<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
- February 9<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>: attendance in NY of many sessions of the *Commission for Social Development* on the Follow up to the World Summit for Social Development.
- March 1 12: attendance in NYof the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the *Commission on the Status of Women*.
- March 22 April 30: our Geneva representative, Dr. Philippe Jaffe, as well as our Secretary General and our Treasurer, attended many sessions of the *Commission on Human Rights* in Geneva.
- Again, representatives of our organization attended the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual NGO/DPI Conference on Globalization in early September at the UN Secretariat in New York, and were present, in Montreal, for the *World Civil Society Conference* (8 10 December).

<sup>\*</sup> Issued without formal editing.

#### Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies

#### **UNESCO**

- A strong IUPsyS delegation led by the President participated in June, 1999, in the *World Science Conference*, organized by UNESCO in collaboration with ICSU, ISSC and other scientific unions.
- The Union's Standing Committee on the Psychological Study of Peace continued to work on its project on "Social Integration in Southern Africa". The August 1999 project was a workshop for people working in the field on "Youth and Political Violence in Southern Africa": Building cultures ofpeace". This project was supported by UNESCO via ISSC with additional funding from the American Psychological Foundation.

#### **WHO**

A WHO-IUPsyS Work Plan was established for the 1998-2000 biennium within the generic WHO goal of achieving 'Health For All'. A key element of this plan was the development of additional "Behavioral Science Learning Modules". The project was initiated with funds from IUPsyS. Subsequently, the project has received funds from UNESCO via ISSC. Two modules were completed in 1999 with the support of UNESCOLSSC and other supporters. The module on "Behavioral Factors in Immunization" emphasized disease and illness prevention, while "Behavioral Factors in Prenatal Care Utilization" stressed health maintenance and promotion.

#### 2000

- March 12- April 28: attendance at the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.
- May 22-26: Attendance of the Millenium Forum in New York.
- June 5-9: attendance, in New York, 23<sup>rd</sup> Special Session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: Gender equality, Development and Peace for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century".
- June 26-30: Participation in Geneva to the Geneva 2000 Forum "The next step in Social Development" and attendance of the Special Session of the General Assembly on this thematic.
- August 28-31: participation in the 53<sup>rd</sup> DPI/NGO Conference on "Global Solidarity: The way to peace and International Cooperation".

#### Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies

#### **UNESCO**

April 26: meeting in Paris with Dr. David Adams, responsible for the activities of the International Year for the Culture of Peace. Our organization accepted to adopt the Manifesto 2000 and this endorsement was approved by our General assembly in Stockholm in July 2000.

#### **WHO**

With the support of WHO, the module "Behaviral Factors in Immunization" mentioned in 1999 was published in June 2000. The module "Behavioral Factors in Prenatal Care Utilization" is in press. WHO has expressed interest in further collaboration on new modules.

#### UNICEF

May 21: participation in the Pre-Millenium Conference entitled "The Global Partnership for Children and Adolescents", at UNICEF House, in New York.

#### 2001

• January 11: discussion of "Disability Issues in Mental Health" during the NGO Committee on Mental Health meeting in preparation for the upcoming Commission on Social Development (February 5-19) which we also attended.

- January 29 February 2: attendance in NY to the Second Substantive Session of the Preparatory Committee of the General Assembly Special Session on Children.
- March 19 April 27: attendance of the 57<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Human Right in Geneva.
- April 2 6: attendance of the NGO Committee on Population and Development in preparation of the session of the UN Commission on Population and Development.
- April 30 May 2: attendance of preparatory session in New York for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
- May 21 June 1: attendance of a preparatory meeting for the World Conference against Racism in New York.
- August 31- Sept. 7: attendance of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, in Durban, South Africa.
- Sept. 10: Our new representatives in New York, Dr. Douglas Seiden, Dr. Fritz Galette, Dr. Margarita Garcia-Estevez and Dr. Carolee Iltis attended the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual DPI/NGO conference.

#### Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies

#### **UNESCO**

Special project on *Southern Africa Capacity Building* was conducted, with UNESCO/ISCC funds, to promote the exchange of psychological expertise in southern Africa.

#### WHO

Adoption of a new WHO-IUPsyS Work Plan (2002-05) to support and enhance: (1) Capacity Building; (2) Evidence Based Change; and (3) Transferability of Knowledge. WHO decides to establish Official Relations with IUPsyS.

#### Other relevant activities

# Consultation and cooperation with officials of the UN Secretariat and UNICEF

During this Quadrennium, the IUPsyS was approched by the StaffCounselor's Office at the UN Secretariat (Mr. Jean-Guy Morisset, director) and by UNICEF (Mr. Victor Kisob) to provide information for resources in trauma counseling for incidents involving UN personnel.

# **6. IPAS**\*

## (Special consultative status granted in 1998)

#### **Introductory Statement**

Ipas, an international NGO focused on improving women's reproductive health, has contributed significantly to UN conferences and activities since obtaining consultative status in 1997. Ipas staff in four regions have participated in preparatory meetings for UN special sessions, in annual commission meetings, and list serves *run* by UN specialized bodies, and in interregional working groups with UN bodies. Ipas has produced several publications relevant to UN recommendations and disseminated them worldwide. Copies are attached as annexes.

Ipas works globally to improve women's lives through a focus on reproductive health. Our work is based on the principle that every woman has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, to safe reproductive choices, and high-quality health care. We concentrate on preventing unsafe abortion, improving treatment of its complications, and reducing its consequences. We strive to empower women by increasing access to services that enhance their reproductive and sexual health.

<sup>\*</sup> Issued without formal editing.

Though Ipas is not a membership organization, its international staff has increased dramatically over the past four years. In 1997 Ipas had a total of 46 staff members in three country offices: Brazil, Mexico and the United States. Today the organization has a total of 135 staff members in twelve countries offices: Brazil, Bolivia, Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, the United States, and Viet Nam. Ipas also works through partners or consultants in Albania, Romania, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

Ipas's budget has a increased significantly over the past four years. In the fiscal year ending June 1997, Ipas's total budget was \$3,672,389. In the fiscal year ending June 2001 the total budget was \$14,265,792.

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

Ipas staff participated actively in the following UN meetings:

- The 42<sup>nd</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 2-13 March 1998.
- Expert Round-table Meeting in preparation for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), "Ensuring Reproductive Rights, and Implementing Sexual and Reproductive Health Programmes, Including Women's Empowerment, Male Involvement and Human Rights," Kampala, Uganda, 22-25 June 1998.
- The 43rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 1-19 March 1999. (Organized a panel entitled "Abortion and Women's Health: A Critical Area of Concern.")
- The International Forum for the Operational Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), The Hague, Netherlands, 8 12 February 1999.
- The United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), New York, June 30 July 2 1999.
- The regional meeting of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in preparation for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," Bangkok, Thailand, from 26-29 October 1999.
- The regional meeting of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in preparation for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century," Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 22-26 November 1999.
- The regional meeting of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in preparation for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century," Geneva, Switzerland, 19-21 January 2000.
- The regional meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in preparation for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century," Lima, Peru, 8-10 February 2000.
- 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session "Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century," New York, 28 February 17 March 2000.
- United Nations General Assembly Special Session "Women 2000:Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 21st Century," New York, 5-9 June 2000.
- 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Committee for United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, New York, 6-16 March 2001 and 9-11 May 2001. (Contributed to an expert group invited paper for the Division on the Advancement of Women.)

- The second session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, New York, 22 January 4 February 2001.
- United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, New York, 25-27 June 2001.
- The third session of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, New York, 1 1-1 5 June 2001.
- 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development, 1-5 April 2002, New York.
- United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, 4-10 May 2002, New York.

### Oral statements made by Ipas

- 45<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the Preparatory Committee for United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, 6-16 March 2001 and 9-11 May 2001, New York. Subject: Women, Girls and HIV/AIDS.
- 35<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Population and Development, 1-5 April 2002, New York. Subject: Maternal Mortality from Unsafe Abortion.

#### Cooperation with UN bodies and specialized agencies

- 1) Ipas is collaborating with WHO to write and finalize the upcoming (2002) WHO publication, *Safe Abortion: Technical* and policy guidance for health systems.
- 2) Ipas is a member of the Interagency Working Group on Refugee Reproductive Health, coordinated by UNHCR. Ipas contributed significantly to finalize UNHCR's publication *Reproductive Health in Refugee Situations*.
- 3) Ipas was asked to prepare a background paper, on unsafe abortion in Africa, for a WHO consultation in August 2000.

#### Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

Ipas's mission parallels the recommendations in paragraph 63iii of the Key Actions for Further Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (A/S-21/5/Add. l), adopted by the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly, New York, 30 June - 2 July 1999. Ipas is becoming the world's leading organization in implementing this recommendation.

# 7. Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights\*

#### (Special consultative status granted in 1998)

#### Aims and purposes

The Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights (MFHR) is a non-profit legal entity under Greek Law, established in 1978. The basic aims and objectives of the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights are the research, study, defense, protection and promotion of the generally recognized fundamental human rights and freedoms. Within this framework, the Foundation takes a special interest in the advancement of human rights education and training and the raising of public awareness in all matters affecting human rights, peace and the development of democratic institutions.

#### Permanent representation to the UN

Since 1998, the MFHR has had representatives to the United Nations Headquarters in New York, to the United Nations Office in Geneva and to the United Nations Office in Vienna. Currently, our representatives are:

<sup>\*</sup> Issued without formal editing.

- UN Headquarters in New York: Ms. Sabatacalus
- United Nations Office in Geneva: Mr.T. Ganiatsos
- United Nations Office in Vienna: Dr. 0. Jankowitch (main representative), Dr. Sohn (additional representative).

#### Participation in meetings of ECOSOC subsidiary bodies.

The representative in New York has been regularly attending the sessions of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. The representative in Geneva has been regularly following the sessions of the UN Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

The Chairperson of the Foundation herself, Prof. Alice Yotopoulos-Marangopoulos, has been attending the sessions of the UN Commission on Human Rights since 2001, and the MFHR has been delivering oral statements. More specifically:

- 57<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Human Rights (2001). Oral Statement under agenda item 9a (question of Human Rights in Cyprus) and agenda item 17 (protection of human rights defenders)
- 58<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Human Rights (2002). Oral statement under agenda item 11 (civil and political rights)

#### Participation in other UN meetings

The MFHR has also been represented in major events of the United Nations, such as the 43<sup>rd</sup> (Vienna 6- 15 March 2000) and 44<sup>th</sup> (Vienna, 20-29 March 2001) session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the 9<sup>th</sup> (Vienna, 18-20 April 2000), 10<sup>th</sup> (Vienna, 6-7 September 2001) and 11<sup>th</sup> (Vienna, April 2002) session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the 23"1 Special Session of the General Assembly, Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the 2lst century (5-9 June 2000), the 53<sup>rd</sup> (28-30 August 2000) and 54<sup>th</sup> (10-21 September 2001) Annual Department of Information DPI)/NGO Conference, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly for follow up to the World Summit for Children (9 January-2 February 2001 and 11-15 June 2001), the Social Summit - Copenhagen + 5 (Geneva, 26-30 June 2000), where the Chairperson of MFHR also made an oral intervention, both the final session of Preparatory Committee of the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Geneva, 21 May - 1 June 2001) and the World Conference itself (Durban, 31 August - 7 September 2001), where Mr. S. Mousouris, vice-president of the Foundation and former Assistant Secretary-General (SG) of the UN, also made an oral statement and the International Consultative Conference on School Education in Relation to Freedom of Religion or Belief, Tolerance and Non-Discrimination (Madrid, 23-25 November 2001), where the representative of MFHR delivered a statement.

#### Cooperation with UN bodies and other specialized agencies

The MFHR has official relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and has a permanent representative to it, Ms D. Sinou. The representative has been attending the Conferences organized by UNESCO and has been submitting written contributions, when requested by the organization. The MFHR is also associated with the UN Department of Public Information. As noted above, the permanent representative in New York has been attending the Annual Conferences of the Department of Public Information (DPI).

The MFHR has also been following the work of the United Nations treaty bodies. Namely, on the occasion of the submission of the initial report of Greece to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, the MFHR participated in the elaboration of a joint alternative NGO report with regard to the implementation of the Convention on the rights of the child in Greece. Moreover, the MFHR sent a representative to the session of the pre-seasonal Working Group of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, which took place in Geneva on October 15,2001, in order to represent the above-mentioned NGO coalition, address the Committee and present the joint report.

It should also be noted that the Director of the MFHR, Assistant Professor L.-A. Sicilianos has been elected member of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in January 2002.

The MFHR, together with the Union of the Bar Associations of Greece and the Union of Greek Judges and Prosecutors for Democracy and Civil Liberties, submitted an information-application to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, concerning the use of depleted uranium missiles during the bombing campaign against the former Yugoslavia (14 June, 2001).

#### Preparation of papers requested by the ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies or the UN

#### Secretariat

The MFHR submitted, at the request of the Secretary-General of the UN, its views on the issue of impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations. Its submission has been included in the report of the SG (E/CN.4/2001/88, para. 27).

#### Other examples of consultative and substantive activities

The MFHR has organized since 1998 a number of colloquies and conferences, namely on: the *Implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights* (Athens, 5 June 1998), the *Academic Community on the threshold of the third millennium* (Paris, 30 November-1<sup>st</sup> December 1998), *Human Rights Violations, Persecution and Non-state Agents*, on the occasion of the 50" anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Athens, 18-20 December, 1998), the *Prevention ofHuman Rights Violations* (Athens, 24-25 May, 1999), *Cyprus and Human Rights* (Athens, 14 December 1999), the *Ombudsman Institution in Europe and the Challenge of the Consolidation of Democracy* (Athens, 12-13 May, 2000), *Immigrants, Racism, Xenophobia* (Athens, 29-30 June 2000), and the 50<sup>th</sup> *Anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights* (Athens, 18-19 December, 2000). Moreover since 1998, the MFHR has published 14 books on human rights issues, a list of which you will find attached to the present report (The total number of our publications is 39). On the occasion of the 50" anniversary of the UN, we have published three special books:

- 1. **Equality and Development: Fifty years of UN contribution to their evolution,** Editor: A. Yotopoulos-Marangopoulos, Athens-Komotini, Ant.IN. Sakkoulas Publishers, 1998, 311pp. (in Greek and English).
- 2. Alice Yotopoulos- Marangopoulos, **Les Mesures positives: Pour une egalite effective des sexes**, Athens-Brussels, Sakkoulas/Bruylant, 1998, 178 pp. (in French).
- 3. Alice Yotopoulos-Marangopoulos, **Affirmative Action: Towards Effective Gender Equality**, Athens-Brussels, Sakkoulas/Bruylant, 1998, 155 pp. (in English).

Furthermore, the MFHR organized, in collaboration with the United Nations. Information Center in Athens, and the University of Athens the 1998 Model United Nations. In this event participated more than 240 high school students.

In 1998, the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights coordinated the reception and the passing through Greece of the Global March Against Child Labour.

Finally, the MFHR offered twice financial aid to the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) Office in Athens.

#### 8. Parliamentarians for Global Action\*

#### (General consultative status granted in 1998)

#### **Introductory statement**

As a dynamic network of 1,300 legislators from 103 elected parliaments, Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) was established in 1978 by concerned parliamentarians from around the world to take joint action on global problems that could not be solved by any one government or parliament. While it's initial focus was on disarmament

<sup>\*</sup> Issued without formal editing.

issues, PGA today works on an expanded list of global issues such as peace and democracy, sustainable development and population, and international human rights and humanitarian law with a focus on the International Criminal Court. These various activities and interactions are coordinated by the Secretariat, which is based in New York, steps from the United Nations. PGA's work is assisted by the United Nations Committee, currently chaired by Ambassador Pierre Schori, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations.

PGA includes only legislators from elected parliaments within its membership, and thus brings to bear the full authority and mandate of their constituencies as well as a heightened responsibility to represent their interests. This structure strengthens PGA's legitimacy on policy matters vis-a-vis executive branches of government as well as civil society. Through PGA's long history of involvement in conflict prevention and management, its members have gained the necessary political expertise and first-hand experience in many of the skills required to address conflicts: negotiating power-sharing and peace agreements, making critical decisions on national devolution and configurations of local autonomy, assuming leading roles in national debates and drafting new constitutions. This is especially true of parliamentarians from democratizing and post-conflict states. As a membership organization, PGA is committed to democratic principles and multi-party collaboration. Reflecting this principle, 30% of PGA members are women parliamentarians. The percentage in national parliaments worldwide is 13%. PGA's Board elections are also done on a 40:60 either gender rule.

During 1998-2001, PGA gained member Parliamentarians from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cape Verde, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Luxembourg, Mozambique and Turkey. New funding sources have included the governments of Canada, Denmark, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the European Commission-European Union, and American University. PGA has worked collaboratively with the following partners who also have consultative status with the United Nations: the Coalition for an International Criminal Court (CICC), International Alert, International Peace Academy (IPA), Pathfinder International, Population Action International and the Population Council.

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

PGA delegates have attended the March 1998 sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the Establishment of an ICC, the UN Diplomatic Conference of the Plenipotentiaries for the Establishment of an ICC (Rome, 15 June-17 July 1998) and all 10 sessions of the UN Preparatory Committee for the ICC, which took place between February 1999 and July 2002. PGA has supported, and continues to support both the ICTY and the ICTR. Having worked closely with both Tribunals from the time of their inceptions, PGA has maintained successfully close working relationships with several organs of the Ad Hoc Tribunals. In June 2000, the President, the Registrar and a representative of the Prosecutor of the ICTR addressed the "East African Conference on the ICC", organized in Arusha (the United Republic of Tanzania). Before the Rome Diplomatic Conference, PGA organized a Latin American/Caribbean Regional Workshop on the Mechanisms for the Development of International Criminal Justice, held in Trinidad and Tobago in May of 1998.

PGA was an active force in all preparatory meetings for the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and played an active role in the formulation of the conference document at Cairo. A delegation of PGA members and staff in collaboration with UNFPA attended The Hague in February 1999 for the ICPD +5 conferences, in Geneva in June 2000 for the Social Summit +5 Review, as well as in New York in June 2000 for the Beijing t-5 Review. The Sustainable Development and Population Programme have worked collaboratively with specialized agencies of the UN, such as UNFPA and UNEP. June 2001 saw the completion of a three-year West Africa Pilot Project in Ghana and Senegal Parliaments, the focus of which was to enhance and strengthen the role of parliamentarians in the implementation of the ICPD through nationally based Junior Project Officers. Two nationally based JPOs are now deployed in Mali and Nigeria. PGA initiated this project as a direct result of the ideas developed in the process of preparing for and participating in the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo 1994.

PGA has also worked collaboratively with bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations in Peace and Democracy. The Peace and Democracy Programme held several missions: "Emergency Response Mission" in June 1999 to the Central African Republic, "Parliamentary Preventive Action Mission" in February 2001 and "Election Observer Mission" in March 2001, both to Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, and the "PGA Assessment Mission" in June 2001 to Dodoma, the United Republic of Tanzania. PGA also participated in two sessions on Women and Peace building in February 1998 in Kigali, Rwanda; held an "Arria's Formula briefing on the Lusaka Workshop to the UN Security Council" in April 2000 in

New York; another "Arria's Formula briefing on PGA's Parliamentary Preventive Action mission to Cote d'Ivoire" on March 15,2001. Greek and Turkish Dialogues on Environment and Common Interest issues were held November 2001 in Stockholm, Sweden as part of the preparations process of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

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

PGA programme work is undertaken in cooperation with: Office of Legal Affairs, Department of Political Affairs, Members of the Security Council, Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarians Affairs, UNFPA, UNEP and IOM.

#### Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions:

At the global level, PGA has worked with UNFPA and UNEP to implement the ICPD as well as Agenda 21, through international meetings and delegations of Parliamentarians. PGA has also been a tireless advocate for the creation and entry into force of an International Criminal Court (ICC). Through a world-wide ratification process since the adoption of the Rome Statue of the ICC on 17 July 1998, in which PGA members attended on their official delegation. PGA's ICC project works with legislators and governments representing all major legal systems and regions of the world. The 87 ratifications of the ICC Statute have been obtained between 1999 and 2002, to which PGA legislators contributed in 49 countries. PGA has launched a calendar of ICC parliamentary events in Africa, Latin America, Europe and Asia. Among these meetings were the "East African Conference on the ICC", held in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, on 9-10 June 2000; the "Latin American Conference on ICC Ratification and Implementation", held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 10-11 October 2001; the "Conference on ICC Ratification in Lusophone Countries", held in Lisbon, Portugal on 19-20 February 2001; and the "Conference on ICC Ratification and Implementation in the SADC [South African Development Community] Region" in Windhoek, Namibia on 28-30 May 2001; the "Euro-Ibero American Conference on the ICC" in Madrid, Spain, June 2002. There were various briefings on the ICC for Members of Parliament participating in the UN General Assembly in New York in July and August 1999 in cooperation with DePaul University, as well as from October through November 2001, and PGA's annual United Nations Parliamentary Forum in October 1998 examined existing and potential enforcement Mechanisms for dealing with violations of international human rights, with special focus on the ICC.

#### Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat:

In November 2000, PGA organized the Global Launch of the United Nations Inter-Agency Consolidated Appeals for 2001 in five capitals, in collaboration with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva (OCHA). These parliamentary seminars, conceived by PGA and OCHA, were held in London, Brussels, Rome, Oslo, and Stockholm, with members of parliament interested in hndmg humanitarian aid for a particular region in attendance with several NGO representatives. The launches provided an important opportunity to raise awareness of UN-led efforts to address humanitarian needs around the world and the donor countries' key role in supporting these efforts.

The Secretary-General, along with the programme officer for the Peace and Democracy Programme, held informal discussions with members of the United Nations Security Council, Group of 77 and the Departments of Political Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations to brief them on the proposed series of regional seminars on Strengthening the United Nations' International Parliamentary Input, which PGA was to hold from January - May 2002.

Other examples of consultative and substantive activities, including financial assistance received from or given to the United Nations, field-level collaboration, joint sponsorship of meetings, seminars, studies, etc.:

In June 2000 PGA organized an East African Conference on ICC Ratification in Arusha, the United Republic of Tanzania, in cooperation with the ICTR and the Commission of the East African Community/Cooperation. PGA's Annual Parliamentary Forum on Strengthening the Role of Parliamentarians in the Democratic Process, hosted by the Chamber of Deputies, National Congress of Chile, 22-24 October 1998, was jointly sponsored by the UNDP Bureau for Development Policy. Similarly, PGA's Annual Parliamentary Forum on Eradicating Global Poverty: Parliamentary Action Agenda for the 2 1 s t Century, held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, 29-30 September 1999, was jointly sponsored by UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and donor countries. PGA's Sustainable Development and Population Programme works closely with UNFPA. Lastly, PGA's Annual Parliamentary Forum on Debt-for-Development: Debt Relief Targeted to Poverty Eradication, 11- 12- December 2000, held at the Senato della Republica Italiana, in Rome, Italy, was jointly sponsored by UNFPA and donor countries.

PGA's parliamentary delegations to Washington D.C. to discuss funding for sustainable development was developed and conducted with UNFPA.

# 9. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas\*

### (Special consultative status granted in 1998)

#### 1. Aims and purposes of the organization

The Sisters of Mercy are an international faith-based organization committed to serving those who suffer from poverty and other forms of disadvantage, especially women and children, and empowering them to live full and dignified lives within diverse social and cultural contexts. The Sisters of Mercy do this through a range of health, educational and other social services, both institutional and community-based, in partnership with local colleagues. In addition to meeting immediate needs, they seek ways to change the socio-economic, political and cultural systems, both local and global, which cause and perpetuate poverty, injustice and conflict, and to promote just and harmonious relationships within and among human societies and with the whole Earth community.

Since January 1999 the organization's relationship with the UN has been facilitated through an office known as Mercy Global Concern (MGC), with one or two fulltime personnel, designated as Director and Associate Director. A copy of MGC's Mission Statement is attached. As a record of the early stages of the organization's exercising its consultative status, this report focuses on engagement in major UN processes and with regular activities of substantive Commissions and other bodies. At the same time it attempts to illustrate the ways in which the organization has built up collaborative relationships with other Civil Society organizations (CSOs) over the period, with a view to using opportunities for UN engagement more effectively.

#### 2. Participation in ECOSOC-related and other UN activities

#### 2.1 Participation in Major UN Conferences

- UNGASS Women 2000. PrepCom 2,15-19 March 1999, PrepCom 3, 13-17 March and resumed 24 May-2June 2000: 2 reps; Women 2000 UNGASS, New York, 5-9 June 2000: 3 reps.
- UNGASS Geneva 2000. Second Intersessional 21-25 February, PrepCom II 3-14 April and resumed 14-20June 2000: 1 rep; UNGASS, Geneva, 26-30 June 2000: 1 rep.
- UNGASS, HIVIAIDS. Preparatory consultation 21-24 May 2001: 2 reps; UNGASS, 25-27 June 2001: 3 reps.
- World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR). PrepCom 1, 1 5 May 2002, Geneva: 1 rep; PrepCom 2, 21 May-1 June 2001, Geneva: 2 reps; WCAR, Durban, South Africa, 27 August 7 Sept 2001: 6 reps.
- International Conference on Financing for Development (ICFFD). The first organizational session, 27-31 March 2000, and all the PrepComs and Civil Society and Private Sector hearings, May 2000 Feb 2002: 1, 2 or 3 reps;
- Second World Assembly on Ageing. PrepCom 1, 10-14 December 2001: 1 rep.
- World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). Regional PrepCom for Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, 15-18 Oct 2001: 2 reps; Sub-regional PrepCom for Southeast Asia, Manila, Philippines, 17-19 Oct 2001: 1 rep; Regional PrepCom for Asia & the Pacific, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 27-29 Nov 2001: 1 rep; CSDl0/ PrepCom 1, 30 April-2 May 2001: 4 reps;

<sup>\*</sup> Issued without formal editing.

#### 2.2 Involvement in NGO activities related to major UN conferences

During PrepComs for major conferences the organization's representatives worked in issue and regional caucuses, assisted in drafting caucus statements for Plenary sessions (e.g. on Debt, ODA and Systemic Issues for FfD, and on Water, Energy and Earth Values for WSSD), and chaired NGO briefing and strategy sessions. The Director participated in the UNIFEM & WEDO co-sponsored consultation on Financing for Development, 16-17 Feb 2001.

The organization's representatives joined the international Ecumenical Teams for Geneva 2000, ICFFD and WSSD processes, organized by the World Council of Churches' (WCC's) office at the UN New York. For the ICFFD and the WSSD, the organization served as a collaborating partner with WCC, facilitating Team activities (meetings, side events, press conferences), coordinating input into the official processes, and helping to produce Team documents (Talking Points, statements, fact sheets).

The MGC Director was a member of the FfD NGO Small Working Group, initiated in July 2000. Along with NGLS, the other collaborating members were the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the Frederick Ebert Foundation (FES), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the Quaker UN Office (QUNO), the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). This Working Group prepared and facilitated the Civil Society orientation programs, daily briefings, caucus meetings and strategy sessions at all the preparatory meetings and hearings, organized receptions for delegates, and served as liaison with the FfD Secretariat and Bureau. It mobilised civil society interest and involvement, including through the use of a list serve initiated by the MGC Director during the first substantive PrepCom, in collaboration with the Secretariat.

The organization's participation included the following side events:

- Geneva 2000 PrepCom 2, 10 April 2000: Panel & discussion on 'Financing for Development and the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen +5): Building the Linkages', co-sponsored with QUNO, Franciscans International and WCC, in collaboration with DESA and the FfD Secretariat.
- FfD PrepCom 2,15 Feb 2001: Receptions for delegates co-sponsored by member organizations of the FfD NGO Small Working Group and the International Council on Social Welfare.

#### 3. Cooperation with UN bodies and specialised agencies

#### 3.1 Participation in Regular Sessions of Substantive Commissions & other meetings

- Commission for Social Development. 38<sup>th</sup> Session: 2 reps; 39<sup>th</sup> Session: 1 rep;
- Commission on the Status of Women. 43<sup>rd</sup> Session: 5 reps; 44<sup>th</sup> Session: 2 reps; 45<sup>th</sup> Session: 6 reps;
- Commission on Sustainable Development. CSD 9: 4 reps;
- ECOSOC annual High Level meetings with BWI's. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2001: 1 rep;
- Sessions of the Committee on CEDAW, 1999,2000,

#### 3.2 Participation in CONGO Committees and other relevant NGO Groups

- NGO Working Group on Girls membership Jan 1999 Sept 2000, and from Oct 2001.
- NGO Committee on the Status of Women membership throughout the period.
- NGO Committee on Social Development membership throughout the period.
- NGO Committee on Sustainable Development membership Jan 2000 to May 2001.
- NGO Committee on the International Decade for the World's Indigenous Peoples membership from Oct 2001.
- NGO Committee on Ageing membership from Nov 2001.
- Hague Appeal, Focus Group on Religion & Spirituality membership July 1999 to July 2000.

- CONGO Ad Hoc Working Group on WCAR: Ad Hoc NGO Working Group "Keeping Durban Alive": Subcommittee for the Elimination of Racism of the NGO Committee on Human Rights - membership from Nov 2000, coordination role from Feb 2001 until the present.
- 'Project CEDAW', coordinated by United Methodist Office from Jan 2000.
- Ecumenical Working Group on the UN from Sept 2001.
- Collaboration with other CSOs in corresponding with UN bodies on urgent matters (samples provided).

#### 3.3 Other cooperation with UN bodies and specialised agencies

- Collaboration with NGLS and Missions to facilitate accreditation of NGO representatives from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to the ICFFD and WSSD.
- Membership of UNEP's Interfaith Partnership on the Environment, including contribution to publication, "Earth and Faith: a Book of Reflection for Action".
- Participation of Mercy Center, Bronx, New York in the partnership program between UNDP and the Teach Foundation.
- Director of UNIFEM a member of the Mercy Global Concern Advisory Board.
- Regional coordinator with UNESCO Associated Schools Project, Philippines.

#### 4. Other relevant activities

#### 4.1 Participation in Related Civil Society Conferences

- Hague Appeal for Peace Conference, The Hague, Netherlands, 11-15 May 1999: 2 reps.
- World Civil Society conference on global governance Montreal, Canada, 7-1 1 December 1999: 1 rep.
- NGO Millennium Forum, UN New York, 22-26 May 2000: Director on planning group, 3 participants.
- World March of Women, New York, 17 October 2000: 35 participants.
- International Conference on the Rights of the Child, Dorval, Canada, 22-26 May 2002: 1 rep.

#### 4.2 Interns/researchers with MGC

- Member, Rhode Island USA, Sept-Nov 1999. Focus on women's and children's rights.
- Member, Philippines, May-August 2000. Focus on women and children, environment and globalization.
- Barnard College student, February-May 2001. Focus on CSD/WSSD.

#### 4.3 Input on the UN and its activities -examples

- 6-12 February 2000, Mercy Latin American & Caribbean meeting, Lima, Peru: input by Director.
- 13 December 2001, UNA-USA: input by Director on FfD.