



# Economic and Social Council

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**Note by the Secretary-General**

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## **1. Institute of Inter-Balkan Relations**

Special, 1998

### **I. Introduction**

The Institute of Inter-Balkan Relations organizes, conducts and attends events and delivers humanitarian assistance and community- and institution-building support in places affected by conflict or natural disasters.

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The organization aims to strengthen relations between Balkan States and gain information on their political, ideological and socio-economic principles, in order to: (a) reinforce partnerships to build better societies through the prevention of conflicts; (b) set priorities and coordinate efforts in order to restore normal community life; (c) focus on the social issues that emerging societies face and; (d) promote international rule of law and collaboration in the Balkans region, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

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

During the reporting period, the organization has: (a) attended diplomatic conferences with delegations from all Balkan States; (b) participated in the sixty-first annual United Nations Department of Public Information NGO conference entitled “Reaffirming Human Rights for All: The Universal Declaration at 60”, held in Paris in September 2008; (c) published a magazine on different international issues within the legal framework of the United Nations.

## **2. International League for Human Rights**

Special, 1946

### **I. Introduction**

The International League for Human Rights was founded in 1942 to bring human rights issues to the attention of the world community. With the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as its platform, the organization works in the United States of America and worldwide to bring human rights issues before the United Nations and other bodies.

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The organization works to keep human rights at the forefront of international affairs and to give meaning and effect to the human rights values enshrined in international human rights treaties and conventions. Its mission has been to defend individual

human rights advocates who risk their lives to promote the ideals of a just and civil society in their homelands. The organization raises human rights issues and cases before the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, in order to coordinate strategies for effective human rights protection.

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

In 2006, the organization presented a report and areas of particular concern on the compliance of Turkmenistan with the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Committee on the Rights of the Child at its forty-second session. It also presented a report on the compliance of Turkmenistan with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, at the sixty-eighth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, held in February and March 2006. The President of the organization was invited to participate in a panel discussion at the sixty-first annual United Nations Department of Public Information NGO conference.

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

The organization sponsored African women's rights groups to attend the fiftieth to the fifty-third sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, at which it organized side events. The organization was represented at the fifth to the eighth sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the forty-fourth to the forty-seventh sessions of the Commission for Social Development.

### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

In 2006, the organization collaborated with the Human Rights Commission of Nigeria to implement a project on enhancing capacity for women's human rights, which was sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

## **3. International Wages for Housework Campaign**

**Special, 1998**

### **I. Introduction**

The International Wages for Housework Campaign is a grass-roots organization founded in 1972. It has participated in United Nations conferences on women since 1975.

### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The organization aims to establish women's rights to resources, benefits and compensation for unpaid work, including housework, caring, agricultural, voluntary and service work, and to many human, economic, civil and social rights they are denied. The organization focuses on how unpaid work leads to low-paid work and vice versa, and argues that such work is productive to society, which, in fact, is dependent on it.

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

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

The organization was represented at the sixty-first and sixty-second sessions of the General Assembly and at the Durban Review Conference, in Geneva in April 2009, at which progress towards the goals of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. Funding restrictions curtailed the organization's participation in meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women and other United Nations events, which it had attended regularly in the past.

### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

During the reporting period, the organization publicized UNDP statistics pertaining to the distribution of work, income and wealth and disseminated information about the decisions made at the four World Conferences on Women. It distributed information from the Commission on the Status of Women and from the NGO section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, to local women's organizations and individual women, and worked with domestic workers pressing for more labour protection at the International Labour Organization.

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

**Goal 1 and Goal 4.** During the reporting period, the organization's network included national coordinators in 17 countries who call, each year, on International Women's Day, for a world that values women's work and focus attention on global military spending, one-tenth of which would address the worst poverty and ensure food security for all.

## **4. IPAS**

Special, 1998

### **I. Introduction**

Founded in 1973, IPAS works globally to increase women's ability to exercise their sexual and reproductive rights and to reduce abortion-related deaths and injuries. It has members in 13 country offices in four regions of the world.

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The organization believes that every woman has the right to the highest attainable standard of health, safe reproductive choices and high-quality health care.

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

The organization works to implement paragraph 8.25 of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and paragraph 106 (k) of the Beijing Platform for Action.

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

The organization was represented at sessions of the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on the Status of Women, at the 2009 annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council, and at the 2006 and 2008 High-level Meetings of the General Assembly on AIDS.

#### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

During the reporting period, the work of the organization included: (a) participation in the annual meeting of the Policy and Coordination Committee of the Special Programme of Research, Development and Research Training in Human Reproduction; (b) collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization and World Health Organization (WHO), including on the WHO publication on safe abortion; (c) participation in the global consultation on the rights of people living with HIV to sexual and reproductive health, co-organized by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and WHO; (d) participation in the sixteenth and seventeenth International Conferences on AIDS, co-sponsored by WHO and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS); (e) participation in UNFPA meetings with NGOs; (f) participation in the International Conference on Actions to Strengthen Linkages between Sexual and Reproductive Health and HIV/AIDS, co-sponsored by WHO, held in Mumbai, India in February 2007; (g) co-sponsorship with WHO of two regional workshops in 2007 on use of the WHO strategic approach for abortion care; (h) presentation at a meeting co-

organized by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) on tracking and monitoring gender equality and HIV in aid effectiveness, held in Santo Domingo in 2008; (i) preparation of shadow letters and reports for the periodic reviews of several countries and participation in hearings of sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; (j) preparation of shadow letters for the periodic reports of several countries for sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; (k) preparation of reports for the thematic studies on preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, HIV and human rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; (l) preparation of reports to the Human Rights Council for the universal periodic reviews of several countries; (m) preparation of a shadow letter for the second periodic report of the Government of Mozambique, reviewed during the fifty-second session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; (n) preparation of a shadow letter for the United States review in the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and; (o) preparation of a shadow letter for the review of the Republic of Nicaragua at the forty-second session of the Committee against Torture.

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

**Goal 5.** The organization works with a number of countries to help address maternal mortality.

## **5. Lebanon Family Planning Association**

**Special, 2002**

### **I. Introduction**

The Lebanon Family Planning Association works to advocate and promote the achievement of social, cultural, health and human development in order to achieve a balanced national development that ensures the stability and survival of the family. It also strengthens attitudes and practices related to human rights and the Millennium Development Goals.

### **A. Aims and purposes of the organization**

The organization recommends policies to support the family and help to build its capacity to educate and protect its members. It works to empower women at the social, health, political and economic levels, and to fight gender discrimination and violence. The organization promotes sexual reproductive health and provides services to men, young people and women to protect them from sexually transmitted diseases, especially HIV/AIDS, and promote the health of the family.

## **B. Significant changes in the organization**

The organization changed its name to encompass more issues and reflect more accurately the activities it implements. It also modified its goals and objectives to respond to the Millennium Development Goals and the Programme of Action of the International Conference of Population and Development.

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

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

The organization participates in and attends meetings organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, UNFPA and UNDP, held at the United Nations Office in Beirut and in the region.

### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization is involved in a number of projects and programmes in cooperation with WHO, UNFPA, UNIFEM and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

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

The activities of the organization aim to empower women and youth, support maternal health and eradicate poverty.

## **6. Local Governments for Sustainability**

**Special, 2002**

### **I. Introduction**

Local Governments for Sustainability is an international association of local governments and national and regional local government organizations that have made a commitment to sustainable development. With members in more than 1,200 towns in 70 countries, it provides consulting, training and information to implement sustainable development at the local level. The organization believes that locally designed initiatives can provide an effective and cost-efficient way to achieve local, national and global sustainability objectives.

### **A. Significant changes in the organization**

At the end of the reporting period, the organization's secretariat relocated from Toronto, Canada, to Bonn, Germany.

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

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

During the reporting period, the organization was accredited to the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and subsequently attended its sessions. It also took part in the conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and attended a meeting of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and sessions of its World Urban Forum. The organization has also been the major groups organizing partner of the Commission for Sustainable Development.

### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

In 2006, the organization entered a tripartite memorandum of understanding with UNEP and UN-Habitat that has subsequently been extended.

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

**Goal 7.** The mission of the organization is to build and serve a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global sustainability with special focus on environmental conditions through cumulative local actions.

## **7. Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights**

Special, 1998

### **I. Introduction**

The Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights, established in 1978 and headquartered in Athens, is involved in international activities.

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The principal mission of the organization is to mainstream the treatment of social problems and to research, study, protect and promote human rights in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural areas, including the right to a clean and healthy environment and the right to development.

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

During the reporting period, the organization undertook initiatives at the national and international level to advance and disseminate the aims and purposes of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations at large. The organization collaborates with the United Nations office in Athens and is a member of an NGO network that prepares an alternative report on the application by Greece of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also organized a conference to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and an international conference to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

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

The organization has participated in sessions of the Human Rights Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and meetings of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations.

### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

During the reporting period, the organization became a member of the General Council of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Greek National Commission. It has been represented at UNESCO meetings and attended the annual NGO conferences and events organized by the Department of Public Information.

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

**Goal 1.** During the reporting period, the organization held a number of national and international conferences on the topic of poverty.

## **8. National Congress of American Indians**

Special, 2002

### **I. Introduction**

The National Congress of American Indians, founded in 1944, is the oldest, largest and most representative organization of American Indians in the United States.

### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

Its mission is to protect and enhance tribal sovereignty and secure rights and benefits for Indian peoples and their descendants. It promotes a better understanding of Indian people and their welfare.

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

The organization has contributed to the work of the United Nations by protecting the human rights of indigenous peoples. This includes negotiating and lobbying at the Human Rights Council, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the General Assembly for the adoption and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

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

The organization attended the first meeting of the Human Rights Council where it lobbied for the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The organization attended a special meeting to discuss the adoption of the Declaration by the General Assembly in New York in September 2007, at which the Declaration was endorsed by the Assembly. It also attended meetings of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, a meeting of the indigenous caucus, held in Geneva in February 2008, and a symposium on implementing the Declaration, held in Vancouver, Canada, in February 2008.

### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization co-sponsored an event with the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on Adequate Housing, held in Washington, D.C.

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

The organization's work for the rights of indigenous peoples is related to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

## **9. Organization for the Solidarity of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America**

Special, 1998

### **I. Introduction**

The Organization for the Solidarity of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, founded in 1966, is devoted to defending solidarity between the peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, through support, cooperation actions and initiatives

to strengthen their friendship. It has 56 member organizations in 46 countries and finances its activities with the voluntary contributions of its members, donations from other organizations and institutions and the sale of magazine, posters and other materials.

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

The organization presented an oral contribution at the fourth session of the Human Rights Council, in Geneva in 2007. It also presented written contributions for the universal periodic reviews of Cuba and China. The organization contributed to the organization of a forum to mark the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It co-sponsored a parallel meeting to the tenth session of the Human Rights Council, in Geneva in 2009.

### **Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities**

The organization presented an oral contribution concerning the universal periodic reviews of Cuba and China at the eleventh session of the Human Rights Council, held in June 2009. It also sent a written contribution in September 2009 to the Human Rights Council for the universal periodic review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia.

## **10. West Africa Network for Peacebuilding**

Special, 2006

### **I. Introduction**

The West Africa Network for Peacebuilding aims to build sustainable peace and an enabling environment for development in West Africa. The organization works to implement the conflict prevention and early warning system of the Economic Community of West African States.

### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The organization aims to strengthen the capacity of peacebuilding organizations and practitioners in West Africa, increase awareness on the use of non-violent strategies in response to conflicts in West Africa, develop a conflict prevention network in West Africa, harmonize peacebuilding activities in West Africa through networking and coordination of its members, empower West African women to participate in peacebuilding processes at all levels, and build a cooperative platform for human rights and peacebuilding organizations in West Africa.

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

The organization is a civil society partner with UNDP and works with the Office for Humanitarian Affairs in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Nigeria. It has been invited by United Nations agencies to provide various services, including facilitating dialogue at the intra-state level.

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

During the reporting period, the organization participated in all of the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, and in the United Nations summit to adopt the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization participated in the redesigning of the approach of UNDP to conflict prevention in Nigeria.

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

In Ghana, the organization facilitated a high-level dialogue between senior editors of media companies on Ghana's efforts towards attaining the Goals, and facilitated a grant of 1.5 million euros from the Government of the Netherlands to the "Women Peacemakers Program" for the implementation of activities in Africa relating to Goal 3.

## **11. Women's Environmental Development and Training**

Special, 2006

### **I. Introduction**

Women's Environmental Development and Training is a non-political and non-profit organization founded in 1996 to promote environmental protection and improve the livelihoods of women and destitute children.

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The organization works to empower women through leadership training and promoting environmental awareness to women and the local community. It aims to protect the environment through good farming methods and the protection of drainage basins, to protect and promote the rights of women and children, and to empower and support women and children living with HIV/AIDS.

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

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

The organization has been unable to contribute to the programmes of the Council owing to scarce funds and volunteer staff, and difficulties obtaining the proper travel visas.

### **B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization has worked in Yaoundé with the United Nations Information Centre, which has endorsed the organization's participation in annual NGO conferences organized by the Department of Public Information.

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

The organization works to eradicate poverty and hunger, improve the primary education of special groups and promote gender equality in Cameroon.

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