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### **Quadrennial reports for the period 2007-2010 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31**

#### **Note by the Secretary-General**

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## **1. Minaret of Freedom Institute**

**Special, 2003**

### **Introduction**

The Minaret of Freedom Institute is a policy research institute classified as a tax-exempt entity under article 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of the United States of America. It relies upon voluntary contributions from private corporations, foundations and individuals to continue its work.

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

The Institute has a dual mission for educating both Muslims and non-Muslims. For non-Muslims, its mission is:

- To counter distortions and misconceptions about Islamic beliefs and practice
- To demonstrate the Islamic origins of modern values like the rule of law and of sciences like market economics
- To advance the status of Muslim peoples maligned by a hostile environment in the West and oppressed by repressive political regimes in the East.

For Muslims, in fulfilment of the obligations laid upon them by the Koran and the Sunna, the mission of the Institute is:

- To discover and publish the politico-economic policy implications of Islamic law (sharia) for the economic well-being of the community
- To expose both Muslims from the United States and the Islamic world to free-market thinking
- To educate Islamic religious and community leaders about economics and the fact that liberty is a necessary, although insufficient, condition for the achievement of a good society
- To promote the establishment of free trade and justice (an essential common interest of Islam and the West)
- To build upon the words of Thomas Jefferson: in fulfilling those goals, the Institute pledges to wage unending holy struggle (jihad) against every form of tyranny over the mind of man.

It shall implement the goals through: independent scholarly research (*ijtihad*) into policy issues of concern to Muslim countries and/or to Muslims in the United States; the publication of scholarly and popular expositions of such research; the translation of appropriate works on the free market into the languages of the Muslim world with introductions and commentaries by Muslim scholars; and the operation of a scholars exchange programme to allow Institute associates to make presentations to academics and policymakers in Muslim countries and to permit libertarian Muslims from outside the United States to spend time with market-oriented Muslim scholars in the United States and to have access to resources not available in their home countries.

**Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

**Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

The Institute participated in a panel on Islamic traditions of peace and non-violence held at the American University. Its representatives presented a dialogue on Sunni and Shia differences, also at the American University, featuring Sulayman Nyang of Howard University, Washington, D.C., and Imam Abo Fazel Nahidian of the Manassas Mosque, Virginia. The Institute's President, Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad, made introductory remarks and moderated the discussion, which resulted in the Amman declaration.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The Institute did not participate in meetings of the United Nations.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The Institute did not cooperate with United Nations bodies.

**Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals**

The Institute has initiated a programme to distribute its pamphlets on Islamic law and on female genital mutilation in countries that engage in such a practice and have a substantial Muslim population.

**2. Misión Mujer****Special, 2007****Introduction**

Misión Mujer has 12 years of experience in preventing psychosocial problems among adolescents in Mexico. Since 2009, it has expanded its regional scope to include the federal States of Jalisco and Guanajuato. A total of 27,493 members have benefited from the organization's services throughout its history.

**Aims and purposes of the organization**

The organization's main objective is to provide preventive education and counselling to adolescents by strengthening self-awareness, self-esteem and family communication, and to support adolescents in the definition of a life plan through the implementation of: the Axios Programme (a public school workshop and counselling programme); the Axios website (for online counselling and social networking); experiential activities in adolescents' communities and schools; the Axios centre (for personal and family counselling and workshops on microcredit and sports, among other topics) and the Axios Youth Programme (for training young leaders to be agents of change).

**Significant changes in the organization**

In 2010, Misión Mujer was approved as an international donee organization and the number of its benefactors (45) and members (3,221) has increased.

**Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

The Axios Programme addresses adolescents' issues in accordance with the World Programme of Action for Youth, the Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action in relation to responsible family planning, climate change, social responsibility, the eradication of gender-based violence, school dropouts, sexual and reproductive health and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. In 2007, 4,323 students were assisted. The Axios Programme includes young boys, therefore promoting gender equality. In 2008, 5,156 students benefited from the Programme. The third Axios congress was attended by 1,000 teenagers. Research and consultation mechanisms were established to make updates in accordance with the United Nations development agenda. In 2009, the Secretary of Education of Jalisco provided evidence that 4,405 adolescents had benefited from the Axios Programme. Nine workshops on gender equality and the prevention of violence around the country were given. In 2010, 5,935 adolescents benefited from the Axios Programme. Sixty young women were trained and five members of the organization actively participated in the World Youth Conference held in León, Mexico, from 23 to 27 August 2010. The fourth Axios congress involved 1,250 adolescents. The launch of the Axios centre took place in one of the most dangerous areas of Guadalajara. A professional assessment of the impact of the Axios Programme has started.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization participated in the following:

- (a) Informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with non-governmental and civil society organizations and the private sector, held on 14 and 15 June 2010;
- (b) The fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held from 1 to 12 March 2010, at which the organization made a statement on whether early pregnancies were exclusively a public health issue;
- (c) The forty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development, held from 3 to 12 February 2010, at which the organization submitted a written statement on adolescents;
- (d) An event on best practices in youth policies and programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 4 to 6 November 2009;
- (e) The sixty-second annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, held in Mexico City from 9 to 11 September 2009;
- (f) The annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council, held from 6 to 9 July 2009;

(g) The forty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development, held from 30 March to 3 April 2009;

(h) The fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held from 2 to 13 March 2009, at which the organization presented a joint statement on true freedom for women;

(i) The fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status Women, held from 25 February to 7 March 2008;

(j) The sixtieth annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, held in New York from 5 to 7 September 2007.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization promoted the International Year of Youth, proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/134, during the fourth Axios congress, held in Zapopan, Mexico, on 28 October 2010.

#### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals**

The organization provided training on gender equality to 18,161 teenagers, imparted 6,600 sessions on human and social development, trained 230 school teachers on gender equality and trained 70 people to prevent gender-based violence. The organization educated 18,161 teenage girls about issues related to responsible sexual behaviour (2,200 sessions on the topic were imparted). In addition, 7,114 private mentoring sessions were imparted. Information on HIV and AIDS prevention was also imparted, to 18,161 adolescents through 440 sessions.

#### **Additional information**

There is no additional information.

### **3. Mission International Rescue Foundation**

#### **Special, 2007**

##### **Introduction**

The Mission International Rescue Foundation is a non-profit organization based in La Romana, Dominican Republic, that aids families in need. It currently has three schools in La Romana that are only open to children from low-income homes. The schools, which are attended by about 1,000 children, start at kindergarten and finish in twelfth grade (high school). The Foundation is a Catholic organization and nuns live on campus at all the schools. An additional group of nuns focuses on counselling prostitutes and on helping them to learn a new profession in order to get them off the streets.

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

The Mission International Rescue Foundation aims to give children an outstanding education and a safe place to come to each day. Its schools prepare students to be successful in their personal and professional lives after graduation.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

The vision of the Mission International Rescue Foundation has always been the same: to help the poor that live in La Romana and other areas of the Dominican Republic. There have been no significant changes. The Foundation strives to collect donations to achieve its mission of helping the poor to break through the poverty barrier.

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

The Mission International Rescue Foundation believes that its mission is in line with that of the United Nations. It is working to improve the lives of thousands of people each year. Not only does it provide the children at its schools with an education, it is also very involved in training its teachers and helping them to continue their education, as well as doing other types of outreach work in the community. The Foundation knows that it is making a big difference in the world and helping to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

In the past four years, the Mission International Rescue Foundation has not participated in any meetings of the United Nations, but it would love to begin to attend meetings and learn about other international organizations and how they are helping. It is open to collaborating with other non-governmental organizations with goals that are similar to those of the Foundation.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The Mission International Rescue Foundation has not worked with any United Nations body in the past, but is open to collaborating with any organization that shares its goals and wants to make a difference in the Dominican Republic. Specifically, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) would be an organization with which it would be fitting for the Foundation to work.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals**

The Mission International Rescue Foundation is making strides to help the United Nations achieve the Millennium Development Goals. Through education, it is helping the children that attend its schools to break through the poverty trap that is so apparent in all third world countries. Most of the children at the Foundation's schools live in slum areas known as *bateyes*. After graduating, they become professionals. A career as a nurse, accountant, engineer or chef (to name a few) helps them to break through the poverty trap, not only for themselves but for their families as well. The amount of time and money that the Foundation invests in each child that attends its schools is rare in the Dominican Republic. The Foundation knows that its schools are special, a safe place for children and their families. In addition, the Foundation is currently working on empowering children and teachers and other employees to empower others in the community.

### **Additional information**

The mission statement of the Mission International Rescue Foundation is: “To assist children and families to escape poverty by identifying and addressing their needs through educational services and collaborative programmes”. Please visit [www.fundacionmir.org](http://www.fundacionmir.org) for more information on projects.

## **4. OISCA International (South India chapter)**

**Special, 2007**

### **Introduction**

OISCA International was founded in October 1961 in Japan and established its South India chapter, a registered non-governmental organization, in 1985. New chapters have since been established and several applications from different States to start new chapters are being processed. Presently, the organization has 66 chapters with more than 4,000 members.

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

OISCA International contributes to humanity’s environmentally sustainable development through a holistic approach that emphasizes the interconnectedness of agriculture, ecological integrity and the human spirit. In carrying out its work, the organization implements and advocates hands-on experiential programmes for people of all ages that transmit knowledge and skills and cultivate such spiritual qualities as dedication, self-reliance and universal kinship.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

It is estimated that during the past 25 years OISCA International has planted more than 24,000,000 saplings of different species of trees throughout South India, with the participation of 1,000 students.

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

OISCA International has been able to spread the messages of the United Nations to the whole of South India, an area with a population of almost 233 million, with the help of members, students, teachers and the general public, among others. In addition, it has conducted seminars, national and international conferences and classes.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

OISCA International was able to send 17 of its members to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002. Three of its members participated in the sixty-first annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, held in Paris from 3 to 5 September 2008.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

OISCA International received support from the World Food Programme to implement drinking water projects in various educational institutions in South India.

It received support from the World Bank for two projects to provide drinking water and sanitation facilities in rural households in Kerala State, South India. It is receiving support from the World Bank through the State AIDS Control Society to prevent the spread of HIV among injecting drug users and migrants.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals**

The Children's Forest Program, the flagship project of OISCA International that started when the organization was founded 25 years ago, is in full swing in about 1,700 schools in South India. About 1 million saplings are planted through the Program every year, with the participation of some 75,000 students. As a result of an agreement signed between OISCA International and the government of the State of Karnataka, 200 schools in Bangalore were selected to participate. OISCA International coordinated all the activities and conducted various environment-awareness programmes.

A three-year forestation project at Mysore, implemented with the financial support of the Toshiba corporation, has been completed successfully. The project was implemented in 10 educational institutions of JSS Mahavidyapeetha in Mysore. More than 6,000 students from those institutions were actively involved in the project. An international conference on climate change and sustainable development, held at Mysore, resulted from the partnership between OISCA International and JSS Mahavidyapeetha.

The Nagarcoil chapter entered into a partnership with the Isha Foundation, a spiritual group from the State of Tamil Nadu, to reforest a vast area of wasteland adjacent to Ayyappa College.

As part of the Children's Forest Program, the organization awarded scholarships to help poor schoolgirls who excel in their studies. The OISCA International trust has come forward with sufficient funds to make the programme a success. Under the scheme, about 100 girls are benefiting from the donations of different chapters every year.

### **Additional information**

OISCA International has hosted two major functions in connection with the silver jubilee celebrations, one on 27 November 2010 and one on 31 December 2010.

In recognition of the various road safety programmes of OISCA International, the Government of India provided the organization with an ambulance and a crane to help people involved in road accidents.

The organization's women's forum and chapter was formed in 1992 with the objective of ensuring the participation of women in its activities. The forum actively participates in and supports the activities of OISCA International and conducts seminars and workshops on various topics of interest to women. Classes are also being conducted, during holidays, in handicraft and toy making, fabric painting, glass painting, ornament designing etc.

Various training programmes are under way at a resource centre in the district of Wayanad for student groups from different parts of South India.



## **5. Perhaps Kids Meeting Kids Can Make a Difference**

**Special, 1995**

### **Introduction**

Perhaps Kids Meeting Kids Can Make a Difference brings together children and youth aged 5 to 24 from all backgrounds and nations in an effort to create a world that is peaceful and just. Children and youth run the organization. Decisions are reached by consensus and made by young people working in cooperation with a few supportive adults. It is the young people who take action.

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

By working together, kids from many countries learn that they can participate in the world in which they live, take action for positive change and make a difference. The children work through a website (KidsMeetingKids.org), congresses, organized walks against violence, a children's rights network, meetings and workshops addressing issues of peace and children's rights.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

With the development of the website, many more children and young people have become involved in the organization. There is now a much more widespread use of video- and telephone conferencing among children from different countries and backgrounds.

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

Since 1982, the organization has continually informed young people about the United Nations and its goals, its work and accomplishments. All of its major meetings and international children's congresses have been held either at the UNICEF building or the Interchurch Center of the United Nations, in New York.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

Whenever possible, children and young people have participated in United Nations conferences, working groups of non-governmental organizations and major meetings on girls, education and children's rights.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

Perhaps Kids Meeting Kids Can Make a Difference has worked actively with UNICEF and been involved in a study on children and violence and the report of Graça Machel entitled *Impact of Armed Conflict on Children* and in all activities possible concerning children and war.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals**

The organization continues to support the Millennium Development Goals through blogs and other forms of online communication with children and youth worldwide. The work that has been done over many years strongly supports education, peace, non-violence, equal rights and good care for all children and young people.

### **Additional information**

The organization appreciates the chance to be linked to the good that has been and continues to be done for children, youth and all people through the work of the United Nations.

## **6. Physicians for Human Rights**

### **Special, 1995**

#### **Introduction**

Over the past 25 years, Physicians for Human Rights has worked in more than 40 countries to stop human rights violations. Today, it focuses on torture, mass atrocities, rape in war and persecution of health workers.

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

There have been no changes.

#### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

Physicians for Human Rights has contributed to the universal periodic review process of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for Myanmar and the United States; briefed the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, the Special Rapporteur on torture and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; and submitted information on human rights defenders. The organization has also briefed United Nations officials (including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat on the human rights crises in the Sudan and Zimbabwe. In addition, it has collaborated with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on health-related workforce issues. Physicians for Human Rights has developed the Model Curriculum on the Effective Medical Documentation of Torture and Ill-Treatment, which is based on the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Istanbul Protocol), which the organization helped initiate.

#### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

In 2007, Physicians for Human Rights conducted assessments at four mass grave sites, was involved in the training of the Afghan National Police and the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, among others, participated in a United Nations expert panel discussion, and contributed to a general assessment report.

In 2008, the organization produced an assessment report on the disturbance and removal of evidence from the grave site at Dasht-e-Leili for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, distributed a report to OHCHR and participated in meetings with Afghan authorities.

In 2009, it participated in Millennium Development Goals forums on maternal mortality.

In 2010, it conducted a five-week training course in Kabul for 18 participants (from the Afghan National Police, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, civil society, Afghan medical legal services and archaeologists) on mass grave documentation and basic human osteology.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

In 2009, Physicians for Human Rights issued a report entitled “Health in ruins: a man-made disaster in Zimbabwe”, in which it documented extreme violations of the right to health. The organization worked with the African Union and sent detailed information on impediments to accessing quality health care in Zimbabwe to special rapporteurs and called on the Security Council to refer the case of Zimbabwe to the International Criminal Court.

From 2006 to 2009, the organization conducted a number of projects for the implementation of the Istanbul Protocol in Georgia, Mexico, Morocco, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Ecuador, Egypt, Kenya, the Philippines and Serbia, among numerous other countries.

In 2009, the organization published “Nowhere to turn: failure to protect, support and assure justice for Darfuri women”, documenting the scope and long-term impact of rape and other forms of sexual violence experienced by women fleeing Darfur to obtain refuge in Chad, including recommendations to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on addressing the violence that Darfuri women face in Chadian refugee camps. In 2010, the organization published “Stateless and starving: persecuted Rohingya flee Burma and starve in Bangladesh”, in which it drew attention to the rights abuses inflicted upon ethnic minorities in Bangladesh, resulting in the lack of medical care.

In 2010 and 2011, the organization participated in consultations with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and briefed numerous staff members of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on justice for and support to survivors of rape. Representatives of the organization attended a round table of the International Criminal Court and non-governmental organizations, held in The Hague, and the 10-year review conference of the Rome Statute and the International Criminal Court, held in Kampala. The organization also conducted outreach activities and participated in conferences and meetings with health experts from UNAIDS regarding Physicians for Human Rights’ work on HIV and AIDS and on strengthening the health-care system.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals**

In 2009, the organization published “Perilous medicine: the legacy of oppression and conflict on health in Kosovo”, in which it provides a constructive analysis for the United Nations of efforts to achieve the right to the highest attainable standard of health, as provided in article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and of the effects of the Balkan wars on the health-care system. In 2010, the organization convened 24 leaders to a two-day summit on

AIDS and the right to health, at which the Special Rapporteur on the right to health delivered the keynote presentation. It also conducted outreach and advocacy activities with United Nations Millennium Development Goals representatives at meetings on health, particularly maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS.

## **7. Planned Parenthood Federation of America**

### **Special, 1999**

#### **Introduction**

For more than 90 years, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America has promoted a commonsensical approach to women's health and well-being that is based on respect for each individual's right to independently make informed decisions about health, sex and family planning. The Federation delivers vital reproductive health care, sex education and information to millions of women, men and young people worldwide. For 40 years, through its international programme, the Federation has been working overseas to ensure that women, men and young people in some of the world's most neglected areas have access to the health care they need to exercise control over their bodies and futures. It works with partners in Costa Rica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru and the Sudan, and has offices in Nairobi, Abuja, Guatemala City and Khartoum, as well as in Miami, New York and Washington, D.C., United States.

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

The Federation aims to:

- (a) Address gaps in the delivery of reproductive health care, including by reducing the unmet need for family planning (Millennium Development Goals 5, target (b), and 6);
- (b) Engage service providers in advocacy that protects rights and promotes universal access to sexual and reproductive health services;
- (c) Support local advocacy movements for reproductive health and rights.

The Federation's international programme supports in-country initiatives to build sustainable, high-quality reproductive health-care delivery systems. By investing in innovative service delivery models, the Federation advances pilot projects that meet the needs of marginalized communities and have the potential to serve as models for the expansion of services, with a view to achieving universal access. Its recent policy successes include the passage of a safe motherhood bill in Guatemala, a new constitution in Kenya that vastly improves women's legal status in society and promises access to health care, and advances in the political climate in Peru. In order to engage with the largest generation of young people the world has ever seen and to ensure their health and well-being, the Federation supports the development of young leaders as educators and advocates. It also supports partners by providing financial and technical assistance for the use of international mechanisms, including the universal and Inter-American systems, to protect human rights. Federation staff work to improve the capacity of its partners to use international mechanisms that protect human rights as a means to advance and promote sexual and reproductive health and rights.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The Federation supports national partners in the submission of shadow reports to United Nations committees concerned with the right to health and other, related, rights. Most recently, the Federation helped submit shadow reports on Guatemala (July 2010, to the Human Rights Committee), on Peru (2011, to the Economic and Social Council) and on Costa Rica (2011, to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women). In all the countries where the Federation works, staff provide technical assistance to partners by holding workshops on how civil society can engage with and contribute to United Nations bodies; staff also provide technical assistance on how to plan, draft and submit shadow reports. More recently, Federation staff have been working with United Nations special rapporteurs, including at a civil society consultation for Central America, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean, held for the Special Rapporteur on the right to health in Guatemala City in March 2010. The consultation provided a forum for civil society in the region to discuss critical issues related to the respect, protection, promotion and guarantee of the right to health. Federation staff communicate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the right to health to provide them with information about specific situations in countries and communities where the Federation works. The Federation's Senior Advocacy Program Officer has also provided information, upon request, to the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. The Federation has invited the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, the Special Rapporteur on the right to health and the Special Rapporteur on the right to education to participate in its second legal congress, on sexual and reproductive health and rights, to be held in Costa Rica in the second half of 2011 (the first legal congress was held in Peru in 2009).

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

Staff of the Federation have developed tools and led training sessions for civil society participants from around the world new to the sessions of the Commission on Population and Development. In addition, they posed questions from the floor in panel sessions and at events held by the Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations. In collaboration with the Guttmacher Institute, the Federation held a side session on the use of research in advocating sexual and reproductive health and rights, which was attended by civil society members and representatives from United Nations bodies and from permanent missions. The Federation aims to have more of its partners participate in related international and regional meetings in New York and Geneva and to offer more written and oral statements at such events.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

At the national level, the Federation collaborates with United Nations agencies, specifically the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), to help realize their goals by planning and supporting sustainable and innovative projects for the delivery of education and services. It works with UNFPA in Ethiopia, Nigeria and the Sudan to arrange for the consistent provision of high-quality contraceptive

supplies. With UNFPA support, it was able to provide supplies to non-profit and private providers (nurses, midwives and doctors) who had graduated from the Federation's training sessions on long-acting methods of contraception. It hopes to expand its work with UNFPA, UNICEF and UNAIDS on sexual and reproductive health service projects for adolescents.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals**

The Federation works with partners to reduce maternal mortality (Millennium Development Goal 5) through a reduction in the incidence of unsafe abortions and of teenage pregnancies by increasing young people's access to contraceptives. The Federation carries out advocacy work through the United Nations system, as explained above, and, in parallel, supports the delivery of services to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The Federation's information and services reach approximately 1 million women, men and young people each year. Its health programmes focus on strengthening partner organizations to develop sustainable programmes that offer comprehensive reproductive health services and products, including contraceptives, post-abortion care and safe abortion care, through strategic investments and technical assistance; working with local non-traditional partners, such as environmental and religious groups, to incorporate sexual and reproductive health care into their programmes; training peer providers who offer one-on-one educational sessions on topics related to sexual and reproductive health and providing contraceptives to their peers, upon request, in order to expand access to services; empowering girls in Ethiopia to stay in school through the creation of girls' clubs staffed by teachers who are trained to discuss sexual and reproductive health and dispense emergency contraception if needed; and broadening contraceptive choices for women by including long-acting methods of contraception. The Federation is also on the cutting edge of HIV/AIDS prevention and reproductive health integration. Overall, its partners saw more than 253,000 people, nearly 20,000 of whom were young people. It served more than 80,000 new contraceptive clients, in addition to the nearly 55,000 it was already serving. Through community-based distribution programmes, more than 212,000 more people were able to access contraception.

## **8. RICS Foundation**

### **Special, 2003**

#### **Introduction**

Serving the public interest, the RICS Foundation is an independent organization whose guiding principle, set by royal charter in 1881, is "to maintain and promote the usefulness of the profession for the public advantage". RICS sets and regulates the highest standards of competence and integrity among 100,000 qualified members and over 50,000 students and trainees in 140 countries, and provides impartial, authoritative advice on key issues for business, society and Governments worldwide. Sustainability is a core principle, underpinning the work of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

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

The RICS Foundation has held special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 2003 and is wholly funded by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The mission of the Foundation is to provide and encourage forward-thinking on the key issues shaping the built and natural environments, with the aim of stimulating the development of practicable solutions and policies for the benefit of society. The main area of interest and activity of the Foundation has been to support and promote research into sustainability and the environment, looking at means by which the development, management and governance of the urban form can be approached in such a way as to promote and enhance concepts of sustainable development. This is in line with Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

Administration functions have been transferred to the research department of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, with decisions on the allocation of funds being made by the directors/trustees, who are the sole arbiters of such decisions. Many members of the Foundation's Board of Trustees are also trustees of the Education Trust of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

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

Information on the work of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors to ensure environmental sustainability is available from [www.rics.org/sustainability](http://www.rics.org/sustainability). The main contributions made by the Foundation to the work of the United Nations are the signing of the United Nations Global Compact and the Cancun communiqué.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The RICS Foundation attended the private sector consultation meeting of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, held in January 2010, and the fifth session of the World Urban Forum of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 22 to 26 March 2010.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The RICS Foundation plays a key role in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and extensively promotes greater use of the expertise of surveyors and other professionals of the built environment. In terms of advocacy and collaboration with the United Nations, the Foundation has collaborated with UN-Habitat as a member of the Global Land Tool Network and could collaborate with the Real Estate Market Advisory Group of the Economic Commission for Europe. It is also exploring the possibility of establishing a relationship with the United Nations Environment Programme (on an urban climate impact programme) and with the World Bank. In addition, the Foundation has submitted a draft report on tribal land valuation to UN-Habitat that is being peer-reviewed by UN-Habitat, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Bank, among others.

**Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals**

In 2007, the RICS Foundation funded a virtual futures for design symposium in cooperation with the University of Salford, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In 2008, it published the book *Virtual Futures for Design, Construction and Procurement*. It has funded a one-day workshop on the built environment futures initiative co-hosted by the Dublin Institute of Technology, the Futures Academy, the Urban Land Institute and the company King Sturge. The RICS Foundation provided financial support for a disaster management workshop (February 2008) for stakeholder development held as part of the International Conference on Building Education and Research, held in Sri Lanka from 11 to 14 February 2008. The RICS Foundation funded the University of Kingston to undertake a review of the price of sustainability in real estate markets that consisted of a quantitative evaluation of the array of approaches, research methods and conclusions emerging from different disciplines (economics, environment, values). The outcome of that review was the report entitled "Is sustainability reflected in commercial property prices?: an analysis of the evidence base", issued in 2010. In 2009, a process protocol and consultative guide were published by the University of Salford with funding from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and the Foundation. At a two-day symposium funded by the RICS Foundation and the universities of Aberdeen, Cambridge, Reading and Ulster, papers were presented by internationally renowned academics and workshops were held on mortgages and foreclosures, house prices and improvements, commercial property, finance, taxation and agglomeration. A two-day symposium on land reform and the rights of the urban poor to housing (as owners and renters), held at Ardhi University, United Republic of Tanzania in 2010, was funded by the RICS Foundation; the symposium brought together practitioners and academics from Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania to share their experiences in making urban land available and utilizing it efficiently for housing low-income people. A one-day international symposium on meeting the challenges of the housing economy, held at the University of Cambridge in 2010, was organized by the University's Centre for Housing and Planning Research and funded by the RICS Foundation.

**9. Safari Club International Foundation****Special, 2007****Introduction**

The Safari Club International Foundation is headquartered in Tucson, Arizona, United States, and has offices in Washington, D.C., Johannesburg, South Africa, and Ontario, Canada. It has funded and managed worldwide programmes dedicated to wildlife conservation. It strives to develop science-based wildlife management programmes by incorporating scientific research into wildlife policy and management. It supports the sustainable use of resources and demonstrates the constructive role that hunters and hunting play in wildlife management.

**Aims and purposes of the organization**

The Foundation is a charitable organization that funds and manages worldwide programmes dedicated to wildlife conservation, outdoor education and humanitarian



services. The Foundation, which is affiliated with Safari Club International, was established in 1972 as a means to use tax-deductible charitable contributions under United States tax law to fund conservation, educational and humanitarian programmes. While being a separate foundation, it receives assistance from Safari Club International, its members and chapters, in its mission.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

The Foundation has made changes to its corporate bylaws to increase the size of the Board of Directors, thus allowing more interested parties to participate in its purpose and mission.

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

All the conservation programmes of the Foundation promote the sustainable use of resources and the development of science-based wildlife research. The Foundation assists Governments in improving their scientific capacity in wildlife management to ensure environmental sustainability. Research, policy and management programmes focus on the following species: African lions and leopards, markhorns, urial sheep, argali sheep, mountain goats, brown bears, black bears, wolves, coyotes, bobcats, lynxes, cougars, eagles and a wide variety of cervids. The Foundation supports the implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora to ensure that trade in listed species is sustainable. The secretariat of the Convention is administered by the United Nations Environment Programme.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

Representatives of the Foundation attended the following meetings related to the Convention: the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, held in Doha from 13 to 25 March 2010; the twenty-third and twenty-fourth meetings of the Animals Committee of the secretariat of the Convention, held in Geneva in 2008 and 2009; the fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth meetings of the Standing Committee, held in Geneva in 2008 and 2009; and the sixtieth meeting of the Standing Committee, held in Doha in 2010.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The Foundation did not engage in any collaborative work with United Nations bodies. Instead, it focused on carrying out extensive wildlife conservation research in collaboration with universities and local governments in Africa, North America, Europe and Asia. It also focused significant resources on consulting and providing expert opinions on the Convention.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals**

The Foundation contributed to the Millennium Development Goals by:

- (a) Funding national lion surveys and assisting in the development of national lion management plans in Malawi, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania (2008-2010);

(b) Funding strategies for mitigating conflict between humans and wildlife species, underwriting multi-stakeholder workshops to address such conflict and developing toolkits for rural communities to identify and solve problems due to such conflict in Southern Africa (2007-2010);

(c) Participating in the Working Group on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and Livelihoods (Goal 1);

(d) Installing rural community-based water purification and distribution systems in Kenya (2008-2009) (Goal 1);

(e) Promoting international conservation education through the American Wilderness Leadership School and the International Wildlife Museum, in the United States, and has supported the establishment of an international wildlife museum in Puerto Rico (Goal 2);

(f) Developing international partnerships with Governments in Southern Africa and professional hunting associations to promote trophy hunting as an economic and conservation tool in rural communities (Goal 8).

## **10. Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation**

### **Special, 2003**

#### **Introduction**

There have been no changes.

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

There have been no changes.

#### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation implemented a project supported by the United Nations Democracy Fund aimed at increasing the capacity of local non-governmental organizations to better monitor the social spending of local governments. The authorities of five pilot cities received five training sessions on the social budget, how it is spent and how it can be monitored by civil society. The project also focused on gender-responsive budgeting with the aim of increasing awareness among women's non-governmental organizations about how to pressure local governments to adopt gender-sensitive policies. Five such organizations from the pilot cities received three training sessions on gender-responsive budgeting. Three workshops and a national conference were organized during the execution of the project.

#### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The Foundation did not participate in any meeting of the United Nations.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The Foundation did not cooperate with any body of the United Nations.

**Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals****11. Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs****Special, 2003****Introduction**

The Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs represents indigenous communities in British Columbia, Canada. The Union is collectively led by indigenous nations in British Columbia to support indigenous governments in the exercise of inherent rights and responsibilities related to political, social, economic, cultural, spiritual sovereignty and development.

**Aims and purposes of the organization**

The aims and purposes of the Union are to work towards the implementation, recognition and protection of indigenous titles, rights, territories, laws and jurisdiction, and to uphold the principles and standards articulated in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**Significant changes in the organization**

Membership increased from 80 to 103 indigenous communities, resulting in increased demands on staff and resources. There was an overall reduction in funding as more non-profit organizations compete for increasingly scarce resources. The mandates of the Union are framed by its resolutions, which direct the work of the organization. The resolutions make reference to and support relevant sections and principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

The Union has actively supported the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including by working with other indigenous nations and non-governmental organizations issuing press releases, information bulletins and open letters, and condemning the refusal by Canada, New Zealand and the Russian Federation to sign the Declaration. The Union has produced papers and organized campaigns, hunger strikes and marches to support the well-being of indigenous families and communities, the elimination of racial discrimination and the protection of marginalized, missing and murdered indigenous women; to condemn the attack of the Government of Chile on unarmed Rapa Nui; and to combat the effects of climate change.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

In 2010, the Union made a joint submission to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, at its ninth session, calling on Canada to embrace the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and a joint submission on the impact of the revised draft protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity

on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In 2009, the Union participated in the Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change and supported the Anchorage Declaration, attended and submitted a position paper and action plan supporting a reduction in global carbon emissions and the development of clean energy resources at the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Copenhagen, and submitted a presentation calling for the implementation of the Declaration at the eighth session of the Permanent Forum. In 2008, the Union made a submission on climate change at the seventh session of the Permanent Forum. In 2007, the Union made a joint submission in response to Canada's report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In 2007, the Union made joint submissions at the fourth and fifth sessions of the Human Rights Council. Also in 2007, it attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Bali, Indonesia, and made submissions on the pine-beetle crisis in British Columbia at that Conference.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

In 2008, the Union co-hosted a symposium on implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In 2007, it presented a joint statement responding to Canada's report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and hosted, together with the British Columbia Assembly of First Nations and the First Nations Summit, three indigenous child forums on the health and well-being of indigenous communities. In 2010, the Union participated in a 29-hour-long fast in support of the Musgamagw Tsawataineuk Tribal Council's opposition to Norwegian fish farms.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals**

The Union did the following:

- (a) Lobbied to ensure clean drinking water on reserves and joined the British Columbia Health Coalition to address indigenous poverty;
- (b) Supported efforts to increase First Nations' jurisdiction over education;
- (c) Formed the Bill C-31 action plan and working group to address discriminatory legislation that denies indigenous women and children access to rights and services; planned a 1,500-km walk in support of marginalized, missing and murdered indigenous women;
- (d) Supported the formation of the interim First Nations Child and Family Wellness Council in support of equitable services for indigenous children and families in British Columbia;
- (e) Participated in the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program, which focuses on the pre- and post-natal nutritional requirements of marginalized women;
- (f) Supported training to First Nations community-based workers in chronic disease prevention and the implementation of an HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programme for indigenous people on reserves;
- (g) Lobbied against fish farms and supported the Special Committee on Sustainable Aquaculture of British Columbia, and contributed to the development of

the First Nations Energy Action Plan in 2007 and the First Nations Energy and Mining Council;

(h) Provided political and technical support for communities' inherent right to trade products from their lands, and provided support for the publication and free distribution to indigenous nations of a data-collection guide for indigenous use-and-occupancy map surveys.

#### **Additional information**

In support of global principles, the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs participated with the British Columbia All Chiefs' Task Force in a coordinated awareness-raising campaign for global human rights at the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games, held in Vancouver, Canada.

## **12. United Nations Association of San Diego**

### **Special, 1999**

#### **Introduction**

There have been no changes.

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

There have been no changes.

#### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The United Nations Association of San Diego supported the work of the United Nations through its education and outreach programmes in the San Diego community through annual celebrations to mark United Nations Day (2007-2010); through educational programmes for fifth-grade students focusing on UNICEF and the needs of children, held between two and four times per week, 40 weeks per year, reaching approximately 4,200 children annually (2007-2010); through annual model United Nations training days for middle school, high school and university students (2007, 2008 and 2010); through the Annette I. Baughman scholarship fund of \$10,000, awarded annually to college-bound high school students who have participated in model United Nations activities (2007-2010); through meetings with representatives of Congress, both locally and in Washington, D.C., to encourage full funding for the United Nations, ratification by the United States of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, support of the Millennium Development Goals, participation by the United States in the International Criminal Court and the Human Rights Council (2008-2010); through regular speaking engagements at the meetings of local organizations (2007-2010); through the organization of Climate Week San Diego, held from 21 to 26 September 2009, to coincide with the opening of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly and the high-level summit convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to urge the sealing of a deal at the United Nations Climate Change

Conference, held in December in Copenhagen; through participation in San Diego's annual Earth Day celebration by explaining the work of the United Nations on the environment (2007-2010); through the joint celebration of International Women's Day (2007-2010); through participation in a walk to mark World Health Day (2009); and through participation in 16 days of activism in support of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign (2007-2010).

#### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

Representatives of the Association attended the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and spoke with Government delegates on the thematic issues of each session (2007-2010).

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The Association participated in the work of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on the Status of Women and UNESCO.

#### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals**

The Association created and promoted a campaign on the Millennium Development Goals, including through a poster and eight postcards, each reflecting one of the Goals; participated in speaking engagements on the Goals; and held meetings with representatives of Congress to urge support for the Goals (2007-2010). Support for the Goals is included in many of the items listed above under the subheading "contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations".

### **13. United Religions Initiative**

#### **Special, 2007**

##### **Introduction**

The United Religions Initiative is an internationally recognized global network that builds interreligious trust and cooperation at the grass-roots level for peace and social change. Through more than 500 locally rooted and self-funded member organizations — called "cooperation circles" — half a million people of diverse faiths from all corners of the globe are working together to better their communities by, for example, mediating religiously motivated conflict, building schools, orphanages and health clinics and fighting global warming. The Initiative connects the cooperation circles through eight regional anchor points.

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

The purpose of the Initiative is to promote enduring daily interfaith cooperation, to end religiously motivated violence and to create a culture of peace, justice and healing for the Earth and all living beings. Its goal is to help people overcome division, organize locally, regionally and globally across religious and cultural lines and engage in cooperative social action to strengthen their shared communities.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

Interfaith dialogue, educational forums and service projects are core to the work of the Initiative. From teaching non-violent conflict management techniques in the Middle East, to training teams from Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Uganda and the United States in peacemaking through its Traveling Peace Academy, the organization is dedicated to building a culture of peace through example and education. The Traveling Peace Academy was featured at the “marketplace of ideas” at the Third Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 27 to 29 May 2010. The most widely observed United Nations day in the organization is the International Day of Peace (21 September). From 2004 to 2010, the Initiative was a co-sponsor of the student observance of the International Day of Peace at United Nations Headquarters, helping to plan the programme and inviting youth to this annual event organized by the Department of Public Information. In 2009, the Initiative participated in the Department’s programme for a 100-day countdown to the International Day of Peace. Local groups of the Initiative also mark Human Rights Day, International Women’s Day, World Environment Day, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, International Youth Day, the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and United Nations Day, among others. Events and projects were organized throughout the world to mark the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World. The International Year of Reconciliation (2009) and the International Year of Youth (2010) provided the theme for many workshops. Representatives of the Initiative to the United Nations took a leading role in promoting World Interfaith Harmony Week shortly after it was proclaimed by the General Assembly in 2010. The Initiative developed a “tool card” to promote the event and generate ideas for activities. The organization was honoured when the main and alternate representatives of non-governmental organizations were awarded with the Spirit of the United Nations Award presented by the NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns in October 2009.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The Initiative is dedicated to promoting interfaith dialogue and understanding, as well as interfaith cooperation for positive change. It has worked with Members States and United Nations agencies on conferences that have led to the formation of a tripartite forum chaired by the Mission of the Philippines and comprising Member States, United Nations system agencies and the Committee of Religious Non-Governmental Organizations, which met regularly at United Nations Headquarters from 2006 to 2009. The Initiative attended the high-level meeting on interfaith dialogue of the General Assembly, held on 12 and 13 November 2008. Special events such as the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwanda Genocide, which is marked each year on 7 April, and regular events and briefings of the Department of Public Information are attended by the Initiative. The organization also attended the fifty-first to fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (2007-2010), co-sponsoring side events at the fifty-second and fifty-third sessions; and the fifteenth to eighteenth sessions of the Commission on

Sustainable Development (2007-2010), co-sponsoring side events at the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions. In 2009, for the International Year of Reconciliation, the Initiative sponsored many programmes at the United Nations and with United Nations agencies. The side event held on 4 May, at the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, was on reconciliation as a key to sustainability. A special event on reconciliation featuring Naomi Tutu was held at the UNICEF building on 25 May. The Initiative attended the sixty-third Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, held in Melbourne, Australia, from 30 August to 1 September, and the 2009 and 2010 sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

Between 2007 and 2010, the Initiative had regular interaction with UNESCO, the Department of Public Information and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat through programmes for the International Day of Peace and the International Year of Reconciliation and through the tripartite forum. As a member of the Interfaith Partnership for the Environment, the Initiative has worked for many years with the United Nations Environment Programme. Its regional directors in South-East Asia, Argentina and Ethiopia work with regional United Nations offices and with the African Union.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals**

The following are examples taken from an extensive list of local initiatives undertaken by the 514 cooperation circles of the Initiative. In support of Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals, the San Francisco Interfaith Council cooperation circle held a national interfaith conference on global poverty on 20 and 21 April 2010; in Jordan, three cooperation circles distributed food and school supplies to impoverished families and orphans living in Mafrq; and in Malawi, Community Youth in Development Activities provided farming support through the construction of grain banks and shallow wells for 60 communities. In support of Goal 2, the Twekolere Women's Development Association cooperation circle in Uganda built a self-sustaining community-based primary school for children orphaned as a result of AIDS. In Swat Valley, Pakistan, the Toba Tek Singh cooperation circle promoted education for girls and organized programmes for dropouts. In support of Goal 3 the TRUST Women's Interfaith Network cooperation circle, based in Israel, held events to bring Israeli and Palestinian women together. In support of Goal 4, a coalition of cooperation circles in western India worked to combat girl infanticide; in Uganda, the Acholi Religious Leaders Peace Initiative cooperation circle worked to draw the attention of the international media to stop children from being abducted or offered as brides to soldiers. In support of Goal 6, in eastern Uganda, cooperation circles have launched a basic hygiene and chigger eradication campaign, treating over 500 patients and supplying health kits. Cooperation circles in Malawi are engaged in HIV/AIDS prevention. In support of Goal 7, in Ethiopia and Uganda, cooperation circles planted thousands of trees as part of the Billion Tree Campaign facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme to combat desertification. Through the leadership of the California Interfaith Power and Light cooperation circle, 500 congregations in the United States joined forces on strategies to stop global warming. The "environmental



satellite” of the United Religions Initiative launched a seed grant programme in 2010 to support cooperation circle projects like these. In support of Goal 8, the Initiative worked to unite people from 78 countries and virtually every faith to address a wide variety of issues for peace, development and social cohesion.

#### **Additional information**

Youth leadership development is a key component of the work of the Initiative. Its Young Leaders Program connects religiously and culturally diverse youth leaders from around the world and helps them to build lasting, constructive relationships, to learn new skills and best practices for community-based action and to coalesce into a global youth movement for positive social change. More than 500 young leaders from 69 countries are part of the Global Youth Network.

## **14. World Federation of the Deaf**

### **Special, 1959**

#### **Introduction**

The World Federation of the Deaf is an umbrella organization providing support and advocacy services for national associations of the deaf. Currently, 131 such associations are affiliated with the Federation, most of which are in developing countries. In 1959, the Federation entered into special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. In addition, the Federation is represented in UNESCO, the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization. It also has participatory status in the Council of Europe.

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

The Federation works to achieve a society that recognizes the equal human and linguistic rights of deaf people, especially the rights outlined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, recognized in the legislation, policies and practices of all States Members of the United Nations. Special emphasis is put on efforts to ameliorate the status of sign languages. Rights are promoted through cooperation with the United Nations and its agencies, national organizations of deaf people and other partners, such as the International Disability Alliance, the Global Partnership for Disability and Development and panels of experts supporting the work of the Special Rapporteur on Disability.

#### **Significant changes in the organization**

In 2010, and again in 2011, the Government of Finland provided €50,000 in financial support.

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

The Federation follows and supports the aims, agenda, recommendations and programmes of the United Nations by promoting access to schools and a quality bilingual educational system for deaf children, including deaf girls, by providing sign language interpretation services, endorsing the recognition of sign languages in legislation, bringing forward the uniqueness of deaf culture and empowering deaf people globally by supporting national deaf associations to become stronger. These

efforts are likely to assist in reducing poverty, creating employment and improving the social integration of deaf people, as well as to support the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The Federation made oral and written interventions calling on the Forum on Minority Issues of OHCHR and the Independent Expert on Minority Issues to include the situation of sign language users in all its work (first session of the Forum on Minority Issues, held in Geneva on 15 and 16 December 2008). In June 2010, the Federation replied to the request by OHCHR for information on the implementation of the accessibility measures outlined in article 9 of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. The Federation made oral and written submissions on the right of deaf people to education in sign language at a round table discussion on inclusion and the right to education (article 24 of the Convention) (third session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, held in New York from 1 to 3 September 2010). It made a written submission on the importance of making services, information and new technologies accessible to deaf people (Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, day of general discussion on accessibility, held in Geneva on 7 October 2010). It also made a submission to the OHCHR thematic consultation on international cooperation (article 32 of the Convention), in October 2010.

Much of the international advocacy work of the Federation has been conducted through the International Disability Alliance and, on a smaller scale, through direct bilateral cooperation with the United Nations. The Federation organized a side event on “Towards a barrier-free education for deaf children: understanding the concept of bilingual education”, held on 2 September 2010, during the third session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention. In 2007, the Federation was represented in one meeting, in 2008 in seven, in 2009 in four and in 2010 in ten. Particular focus was placed on the meetings of the following bodies: the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, the Human Rights Council, OHCHR, UNESCO, the General Assembly, the International Telecommunication Union, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, the Panel of Experts on Disability, the Commission for Social Development and the Department of Public Information.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The Panel of Experts on Disability contributed comments to the *World Report on Disability*.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals**

The Federation has supported the work of the International Disability Alliance in mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of the Millennium Development Goals. Moreover, it has advocated for access to bilingual quality education, conducted capacity-building work aimed at national associations of the deaf, drafted documents and shared information related to HIV/AIDS and gender equality. All of the Federation’s basic functions aim at eradicating poverty.

**Additional information**

The Federation has corresponded with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs about getting the United Nations to officially recognize an international day of sign languages. Sign language material was produced on the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and human rights monitoring mechanisms.

**15. World Federation of the Deafblind****Special, 2007****Introduction**

The World Federation of the Deafblind is a worldwide representative organization of persons with deaf-blindness.

**Aims and purposes of the organization**

The aim of the Federation is to improve the quality of life of persons with deaf-blindness worldwide, with the objective of achieving equal rights for persons with deaf-blindness.

**Significant changes in the organization**

Between 2007 and 2009, the Federation supported the formation of the African Federation of the Deafblind, which held the founding session of its General Assembly in Munyonyo, Uganda, on 21 and 22 October 2009.

**Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

The Federation is a small organization with very limited resources. It has no employed staff and all the work is done on a voluntary basis. The Federation is a member of the International Disability Alliance, a network of international and regional organizations of persons with disabilities. Through the Alliance, the Federation contributes to the work of the Human Rights Council, the committees of the human rights treaty bodies and OHCHR, especially to thematic studies. As a member of the Alliance, the Federation supports the development agenda by building the capacity of organizations of people with disabilities worldwide, including in areas like parallel reporting and effective monitoring of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The president of the Federation attended the forty-fifth session of the Committee for Social Development, held in New York from 7 to 16 February 2007. He was invited to participate in a panel at a special event of the Human Rights Council on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held on 26 March 2007, at which he presented a statement on behalf of the International Disability Caucus and the International Disability Alliance. The president also participated in a meeting of the World Health Organization on disability and rehabilitation, held on 14 September 2007, and chaired a side event, held in Geneva on 17 September 2007, on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities organized by the International Disability Alliance at the sixth session of the Human Rights Council. At a special session on the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of

Persons with Disabilities, held in New York on 12 May 2008, the Federation was invited to speak in plenary on behalf of the International Disability Alliance. During the eighth session of the Human Rights Council, at another special event on the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held on 6 June 2008, the Federation was invited to participate in a panel on behalf of International Disability Alliance. The Federation participated in the first session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held in New York from 31 October to 3 November 2008. At an event held in Paris from 5 to 8 January 2009 and organized by UNESCO to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille, the Federation was invited to speak in plenary on Braille for persons with deaf-blindness.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

Since the Federation has limited resources, cooperation with United Nations agencies and organizations mainly takes place through the International Disability Alliance, which has permanent offices, with staff, in New York and Geneva. The Disability and Rehabilitation Team of the World Health Organization has consulted the Federation on the production of the *World Report on Disability* in formats accessible to readers with deaf-blindness who read in Braille.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Millennium Development Goals**

The Federation has contributed to the efforts of the International Disability Alliance to include the rights of persons with disabilities in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The Federation organized a five-day course for the leaders of 10 African national organizations of persons with deaf-blindness on human rights and development, including the Millennium Development Goals and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Entebbe, Uganda, 7-11 March 2008).

### **Additional information**

Deaf-blindness is a distinct disability that affects vision and hearing. It limits the activities that a person can engage in and restricts full participation in society to a degree that requires society to compensate by providing specific services, making environmental alterations and using technology.

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