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## Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

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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**

## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
1. International Trade Union Confederation . . . . .	2
2. Temple of Understanding . . . . .	3
3. Third World Institute . . . . .	5
4. Transparency International . . . . .	7
5. Tribal Link Foundation . . . . .	9
6. Trickle Up Program . . . . .	10
7. UNIFEM Australia . . . . .	12
8. Union internationale des avocats . . . . .	13
9. Union of International Associations . . . . .	15
10. Union of the Electricity Industry . . . . .	16
11. United Cities and Local Governments . . . . .	17
12. United Nations Association of Russia . . . . .	19
13. United States Burn Support Organization . . . . .	20
14. United States Committee for UNIFEM . . . . .	21
15. Vali-Asr Rehabilitation Foundation for Disabled Children and Adults . . . . .	22



## **1. International Trade Union Confederation**

### **General, 2007**

#### **Introduction**

International Trade Union Confederation is a global international trade union organization, representing the interests of working people worldwide. It has 305 national affiliates in 151 countries and territories and represents 175 million workers, 40 per cent of whom are women.

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

The Confederation advocates at the international level for the defence of human and trade union rights and for decent working and living conditions for all in a sustainable world, informed by policies that promote peace, social stability and socio-economic justice.

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

There have been no significant changes.

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

In its 2006 founding constitution, the Confederation expresses unwavering support for the principles and role of the United Nations, its unique legitimacy and its authority to stand as an effective guarantee of peace, security and development, commanding the respect and adherence of all in the international community. The Confederation participates in the work of the United Nations in the economic, social and development fields and engages in advocacy with Member States to ensure that trade union concerns are adequately reflected in policymaking.

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

During the reporting period 2007-2010, the Confederation participated actively in the sessions of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, including the forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions of the Commission for Social Development, at which it delivered statements, participated in preparatory civil society events and lobbied to influence policy outcomes relating to the decent work agenda. It sent a substantial delegation of trade union women to the fifty-second, fifty-third and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, participating in trade union and non-governmental organization (NGO) side events, giving presentations in plenaries and official panels and lobbying to influence the agreed conclusions relating to the decent work agenda. The Confederation participated in plenaries and multi-stakeholder dialogues of the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, highlighting the importance of a “just transition” to green and decent jobs. It attended the thematic review sessions of the 2008 Doha Review Conference, at which it detailed parallel proposals to the draft outcome document to strengthen the social, human rights, gender and ethical dimensions and include a role for the International Labour Organization (ILO) in promoting job-centred strategies to overcome the financial and economic crisis. The Confederation participated in the financing for development follow-up process, including the spring high-level

meetings of the Council in New York in April 2008 and 2009 and March 2010. It closely followed the work of the Human Rights Council during its sixth to fifteenth sessions, making statements on specific countries with egregious human rights records and lobbying for the protection of human and trade union rights defenders. In collaboration with the Global Union Federations, it participated in the 2008 high-level meetings on HIV/AIDS. The Confederation sent a delegation to the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty in the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, at which it organized a side event and submitted 6.6 million signatures from its year-long campaign for nuclear disarmament to the President of the Conference. The Confederation provided input to the Report by the Commission on the Measurement of Economic and Social Progress and supported the Council's resolution on implementing the Global Jobs Pact (resolution 2010/25).

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

The Confederation collaborated with ILO on organizing side events at specific sessions and conferences, including panel discussions at the 2008, 2009 and 2010 sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the commemoration of the World Day of Social Justice (February 2009 and 2010) and World Teachers' Day (October 2010).

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

The General Secretary of the Confederation spoke at a high-level round table at the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Summit in 2010, linking the Goals to decent work and opportunities for job creation arising from the green economy.

## **2. Temple of Understanding**

### **Special, 1995**

#### **Introduction**

There have been no changes.

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

There have been no changes.

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

In 2009, in consultation with the New York office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Temple of Understanding joined GreenFaith, the Forum of Religion and Ecology at Yale University and International Communities for the Renewal of Earth in creating the Interfaith Consortium for Ecological Civilization.

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

Side events and panel discussions:

- Parallel event on "Women of faith: gender equality financing" (February 2008), Commission on the Status of Women, fifty-second session

- “Inter-religious dialogue on human rights: the Russian Orthodox Church perspective” (June 2008), Committee of Religious Non-Governmental Organizations at the United Nations
- “Perspectives on transitional justice and social integration: the role of religion” (February 2009), Commission for Social Development, forty-seventh session

Papers presented:

- Human Rights Council, statement relating to the Manual of the United Nations Human Rights Special Procedures (June 2007)
- Participation in an oral statement introducing the Luarca Declaration on the Human Right to Peace, Geneva (May 2007)
- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, sixty-second session, statement on gender in the European economy, Geneva (April 2007)
- Commission on the Status of Women, joint statement on women’s employment and economic development and the importance of unpaid work, Geneva (June 2007)
- ILO, ninety-sixth session, statement on equality at work: tackling the challenges, Geneva (June 2007)
- Human Rights Council, joint statement on gender mainstreaming, Geneva (June 2007)
- Secured and delivered a message of support from the Secretary-General to the World Buddhist Forum, held in Wuxi, China and Taipei, Taiwan Province of China, on the topic “A harmonious world” (March and April 2009)

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

During the reporting period, representatives of the organization served on the planning committee for the Annual Conferences of the Department of Public Information for NGOs. They attended the annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organization Conferences on climate change, human rights and nuclear non-proliferation, and sponsored side events. The organization co-sponsored an initiative to have the United Nations declare 2011-2020 as the “United Nations Decade of Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue”. In addition, the organization attended various meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission for Social Development and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as the 2009 high-level event on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries and the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen and Cancun, Mexico, respectively.

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

The organization cooperated with the Department of Public Information on its annual conferences on NGOs. It also cooperated with UNEP on a variety of issues, working to promote the conservation of energy, water and food. The organization endeavoured to engage young people and corporate business leaders in preparation for the upcoming Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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

The organization chaired a number of conferences and workshops relating to the Goals and worked to raise awareness of Goal 7, namely to ensure environmental sustainability.

### **Additional information**

Temple of Understanding has a history of partnering with organizations on local, regional and international issues such as human rights, ecological justice and religious understanding. Although it has a small staff, it maximizes its participation by utilizing students and interns.

## **3. Third World Institute**

### **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**

(a) Member of the Civil Society Advisory Committee to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); participated in most of the Committee's meetings at UNDP headquarters in New York;

(b) Translated and disseminated information from or about the United Nations and its main activities through its publications and websites; see [www.item.org.uy](http://www.item.org.uy), [www.socialwatch.org](http://www.socialwatch.org) and [www.redtercermundo.org.uy](http://www.redtercermundo.org.uy);

(c) Participated in the press conference organized by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service, on the occasion of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, New York, April 2009.

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

The organization participated in the following:

- Fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 2007
- World Summit on the Information Society, Geneva, May 2007
- Third High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, New York, October 2007

- ILO Forum on Decent Work for a Fair Globalization, Lisbon, 2007
- Fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, February 2008
- Hearings of civil society organizations, held in preparation for the Doha Review Conference, New York, June 2008
- Round table 8 of the United Nations Private Sector Forum on the Millennium Development Goals and Food Sustainability, New York, September 2008
- Doha Review Conference, 2008
- Panel discussion on civil society perspectives on the financing for development agenda, New York, April 2009
- Round table at the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, New York, June 2009
- Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Expert Group Meeting on the “Global Financial and Economic Crisis: Social Impact and Response in ESCWA Countries”, Beirut, December 2009
- Fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women; submitted a written statement, New York, March 2010
- Panel event on resource mobilization for the sustainable growth and development of least developed countries, New York, May 2010
- Second high-level symposium in preparation for the 2010 Development Cooperation Forum, Helsinki, June 2010
- Panel on “Reforming finance for the MDGs”, New York, June 2010, held during the informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly, New York, June 2010
- Member of the Civil Society Steering Committee for the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, launched in New York in October 2010
- Panel on “Concrete steps to advance and build the capacity of minorities to participate effectively in economic life”, held during the third session of the Forum on Minority Issues, Geneva, December 2010

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

The organization prepared a paper for the Human Rights Council analysing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness from the perspective of the right to development and presented it in Geneva in January 2008, at the fourth session of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development. In 2010, it served as an honorary member of the panel that assisted UNDP in interviewing candidates for the position of Director, Civil Society Division/Partnerships Bureau (UNDP New York).

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

(a) The organization hosted the international network of civil society organizations “Social Watch”, which has members in over 70 countries. Social Watch helps to create political will to implement the Goals by holding Governments and international organizations accountable in respect of their commitments. Social Watch publishes an annual report in several United Nations languages, containing the findings of civil society, and disseminates those findings through a specialized website, [www.socialwatch.org](http://www.socialwatch.org);

(b) The organization also computes indicators on basic capabilities and gender equity that help to assess progress towards the Goals and shares those conclusions with Governments and United Nations agencies and at different meetings of the General Assembly or of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, as reported above;

(c) Third World Institute participated in the round table on global partnerships, held during the MDG Summit in New York in September 2010.

### **Additional information**

Third World Institute is the host organization of the Social Watch network of civil society organizations and hosts the Latin American secretariat of Third World Network.

## **4. Transparency International**

### **Special, 2003**

#### **Introduction**

Transparency International is a global civil society organization and a leader in the fight against corruption. It consists of a secretariat in Berlin and a global network of more than 90 locally established national chapters.

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

The organization brings people together in a worldwide coalition to end the devastating impacts of corruption; its mission is to create change towards a world free of corruption.

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

The organization recently adopted a new five-year strategy that includes an enhanced focus on citizen outreach. It aims to empower people and partners around the world to take action against corruption.

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

(a) Global Compact: The organization has been a Board member since 2006 and regularly participates in meetings;

(b) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: The organization prepared recommendations on operational governance and the

Adaptation Fund and on review procedures and transparent, accountable operational procedures relating to the Clean Development Mechanism. It plans to submit recommendations on scope, principles and operational modalities relating to the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund;

(c) Transparency International participated in the regional consultation between indigenous peoples organizations from Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Bangkok in October 2009;

(d) The organization helped to promote International Anti-Corruption Day.

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

Transparency International has been accredited to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change since 2007. It has attended the Bonn climate change talks since 2008 and participated in the thirteenth to sixteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. It also attended the Rome Stakeholder Forum, held in June 2008 in preparation for the Development Cooperation Forum; the Doha Review Conference (2008); the second and third sessions of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Nusa Dua, Indonesia (2008) and Doha (2009); and the MDG Summit (2010), at which it organized a side event.

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

- Recipient of UNDP funding and partnership for a project entitled “Piloting the methodology for promoting civil society monitoring and documenting lessons learned” (pilots in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), India, Uganda, Zambia), with the aim of enhancing service delivery for poor and marginalized groups, 2010-2011.
- Recipient of United Nations Democracy Fund funding for a project entitled “Monitoring corruption in a democracy: enhancing civil society’s role”, with the aim of equipping the United Nations Convention against Corruption coalition to monitor Government performance regarding Convention commitments, conduct advocacy for change and anti-corruption efforts, 2010-2012.
- Partnership and collaboration with UNDP in organizing and running the 13th and 14th International Anti-Corruption Conference with UNDP’s Phil Matsheza also serving as a member of the IACC programme committee; plenary entitled “Global transparency: Fighting corruption for a sustainable future”, Athens, Greece, 30 October-2 November 2008; and plenary “Restoring trust: Global action for transparency”, Bangkok, Thailand, 10-13 November 2010, respectively.

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

**2010.** The organization attended and organized a side event at the Millennium Development Goals summit held in September and published a report on anti-corruption and the Millennium Development Goals, a flagship report on



corruption in education in Africa and a handbook on preventing corruption in humanitarian operations.

**2009.** The organization published reports on corruption and human rights and on municipal water supplies and sanitation.

**2008.** It produced working papers and policy positions on topics related to human rights, poverty reduction (Goal 1) and water (Goal 7).

**2007.** It produced working papers on education (Goal 2), gender (Goals 3 and 5), natural resources (Goal 7) and corruption and issued a joint publication (with UNESCO) on corruption in schools and universities (Goal 2) and a policy paper on poverty, aid and corruption.

## **5. Tribal Link Foundation**

### **Special, 2007**

#### **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 Executive Director has been serving in various committees of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations. Tribal Link Foundation organizes Project Access Capacity-Building Program in cooperation with the secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The programme prepares indigenous representatives to participate more effectively at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Annually, the organization sponsors 15 to 20 indigenous representatives worldwide. It coordinated a side event on indigenous peoples and the private sector in April 2007. Tribal Link Foundation also serves annually as a coordinator of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The Executive Director attended the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in May 2008 and held a side event on indigenous entrepreneurship and biological diversity.

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

Representatives of the organization attended the fifty-first to fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (2007-2010), the fifteenth to eighteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (2007-2010), as well as the Economic and Social Council and the Peacebuilding Commission event in partnership with the World Food Programme on the theme "Food and economic crises in the post-conflict countries" (2009).

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

Tribal Link Foundation organized an event in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme and the World Intellectual Property Organization on the theme “Dialogue for the future: indigenous entrepreneurship: opportunities and challenges” (May 2007).

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

- The organization organized a microcredit programme for indigenous women entrepreneurs in the Philippines in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programmes Equator Initiative. It also organized a side event on protecting indigenous children from child labour and the power of education (New York, 21 April 2010).
- The organization has been providing education leadership and rights training for indigenous girls in East Africa since January 2009. It commits to funding education at the secondary and university levels for 10 Masaai girls from communities in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- The organization sponsored a Masaai woman from Kenya to attend a session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2007).
- The Executive Director served as Chair of the Indigenous Subcommittee of the Planning Committee at the 2010 Department of Public Information/ Non-Governmental Organizations Conference.
- Tribal Link Foundation convened a meeting on indigenous and local communities, business and biodiversity in partnership with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

**Additional information**

There is no additional information.

**6. Trickle Up Program****Special, 1987****Introduction**

Trickle Up empowers people living on less than \$1.25 a day to take the first steps out of poverty, providing them with resources to build sustainable livelihoods for a better quality of life. In partnership with local agencies, it provides training and seed capital grants to launch or expand microenterprises and savings support to build assets. It works in India, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Mali and Burkina Faso.

**Aims and purposes of the organization**

With an estimated 1.4 billion people living in extreme poverty, there is an immense need for high-quality economic development programmes that can produce sustainable change in the lives of the poorest. Founded in 1979 and a pioneer in the microenterprise development field, Trickle Up has over three decades of experience

in successfully raising income levels of very poor households around the world. In 2010, Trickle Up served 7,690 participants. With an average of 5 people benefiting from each Trickle Up-supported enterprise, over 41,000 people will improve their quality of life as a result of its work in 2010. In reaching the poorest, Trickle Up has served people at the very bottom of the socio-economic scale. Studies show that microcredit institutions serve moderately poor and low-income households living on at least \$2 a day per capita. Trickle Up's unique approach is designed for households whose per capita income is less than \$1.25 a day, the international standard for extreme poverty defined by the World Bank. Households living at this level of poverty lack the collateral to qualify for formal microcredit services and, because of their extreme level of vulnerability, are not in a position to benefit from a development strategy that carries the risk of further indebtedness.

Trickle Up's poverty reduction strategy includes a one-time seed capital grant, called a Trickle Up "spark grant", which provides our participants with the necessary start-up capital to launch or expand microenterprises. It also provides highly structured business and livelihood training and facilitates the formation of community-based savings groups comprised of Trickle Up participants. Working together, these three components effectively boost household incomes and enable participants to build a base of skill and capital to make continued progress out of poverty.

More than 90 per cent of Trickle Up participants are women, both because women's access to capital is often restricted due to social and cultural constraints and because they consistently direct economic resources towards household needs. Trickle Up provides a pathway towards economic and social empowerment, helping participants build financial independence, gain self-confidence, and take on larger roles in their households and communities.

Trickle Up delivers its programmes through a large network of high-calibre grass-roots organizations that provide outreach and recruitment, training, administration of Trickle Up spark grants, support for savings groups and follow-up monitoring. Training and capacity-building for partners is provided by expert field teams, based at regional offices in Guatemala, India and Mali.

The impact of its work is measured in increased household incomes and savings, and improvements in quality of life such as food security. It is committed to the principle of accountability and has developed a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation programme that uses the most current industry-standard measurement tools to collect quantitative and qualitative data.

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

The organization has made great progress in the past few years. It has greater clarity of mission, enabling the extreme poor to establish sustainable livelihoods, build skills and save. It has a strong staff and board, common definitions of success, greater monitoring and evaluation capacity, and stronger systems.

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

Trickle Up's mission is in direct support of the Millennium Development Goals. On Goal 1, it helps the extreme poor build sustainable livelihoods so as to be able to provide more and better quality meals for their household. In support of Goal 3,

94 per cent of its participants were women in 2010. In support of Goals 4, 5, 6 and 7, its India programme includes the added component of health services workers visiting participants in their homes to educate them on better health and sanitation practices.

## **7. UNIFEM Australia**

### **Special, 2007**

#### **Introduction**

UNIFEM Australia is the National Committee for UNIFEM in Australia. It has been advocating and fund-raising for its parent body for 21 years. Its main focus is the Asia-Pacific region, particularly East and South-East Asia and the Pacific. However, it has also advocated and fundraised for programmes in Afghanistan, Iraq and Liberia.

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

Its vision is one where men and women have equal opportunities and capacities, where women are empowered and where the principles of gender equality are firmly embedded in programmes globally. Its objectives are to:

- (a) Raise financial resources to support general programmes and priorities and the Trust Fund in support of actions to eliminate violence against women;
- (b) Increase the active support and interest of the public and the Government of Australia regarding the important leadership roles of women in the economic and social progress of developing countries in general and the advancement of gender equality and women's human rights;
- (c) Disseminate widely UNIFEM Australia publications and materials in national, regional and locally based media;
- (d) Monitor and encourage the Government of Australia to increase contributions to UNIFEM Australia and to monitor its activities in this regard;
- (e) Cooperate with other national organizations that share a common concern for meeting the needs of women in developing countries;
- (f) Be a dynamic membership-based organization that conducts multifaceted fund-raising, communications and outreach programmes.

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

There have been two major changes which have had a significant impact on the organization's vision between 2007-2010. First, in 2007 the organization decided to take on its first paid staff member. Since its inception in 1989 the organization has been run and supported by volunteers. Second, the United Nations decision to form UN-Women represented a significant shift in the organization's vision.

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

- The Government of Australia has committed to increasing its official development assistance to 0.5 per cent of gross national income by 2015.

- From 2007 to 2010, as a direct result of the organization's advocacy, the Government of Australia has committed AUD17.4 million to UN-Women.
- Australia was the first Member State to make a contribution to the new entity UN-Women.

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

The organization attended sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women each year. UNIFEM Australia has participated actively in the activities of the Global Coalition of National Committees of UNIFEM, as well as chairing meetings, assisting with preparation of agendas and providing administrative assistance to the operation of the Global Coalition of the national committees globally.

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

UNIFEM Australia cooperates actively with United Nations bodies in Australia, including the United Nations Association of Australia, United Nations information centre and the United Nations Children's Fund.

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

UNIFEM Australia presented a position paper to the Millennium Development Goals review summit in 2010. UNIFEM Australia focuses on fostering women's empowerment and gender equality both domestically and internationally. Within this mandate, UNIFEM Australia is strongly engaged in efforts aimed at bringing gender concerns forward in achieving the Goals. UNIFEM Australia recognizes that there has been progress on the Millennium Development Goals, but progress is still lagging in key areas of concern for women.

## **8. Union internationale des avocats**

### **Special, 1971**

#### **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 changes.

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

The Union internationale des avocats (UIA) organizes annual congresses and seminars throughout each year.

It attended all sessions of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court and the Kampala Review Conference for the Rome Statute in June 2010. It is an active member of the non-governmental coalition for

the Court. In support of the prohibition of force under the Charter of the United Nations, it has worked on having the crime of aggression included under the Rome Statute, with its representative serving as a coalition team leader.

The Union Internationale des avocats participates in the World Justice Project, with an emphasis both on human rights and individual country perspectives. It acts in particular on behalf of the human rights of lawyers and other human rights defenders and especially supports due process rights (including through trial observation).

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

The organization attended the:

- Fifteenth to eighteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (2007-2010)
- First Preparatory Commission for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (May 2010) and related intergovernmental preparatory meetings
- Fifty-first to fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women
- Forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions of the Commission on Social Development
- Various meetings of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law, including the 2007 UNCITRAL Congress, the fortieth (first and second part) and forty-first sessions of the Commission, the twelfth and sixteenth sessions of Working Group I, the forty-first and fifty-first sessions of Working Group II, the thirty-fifth, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions of Working Group V and the thirteenth and eighteenth sessions of Working Group VI
- Sixth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and the thirty-seventh session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2007)
- Seventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (2008)
- Second session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the fourth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (2009)
- High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (2010)
- Meetings of the Second, Third and Sixth Committees of the General Assembly and certain open meetings of the Security Council
- Second session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2009)

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

The Union internationale des avocats signed an agreement with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 2008 to reinforce social development and capacity-building and promote access to cultural heritage, water

resources and renewable energy in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals and the UNESCO medium-term strategy for 2008-2013. The Union internationale des avocats has been working on facilitating the continuing education of lawyers on those themes. On 26 October 2009, the organization signed an agreement with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute to collaborate on research and other projects, specifically on human rights, judicial reform and international law enforcement.

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

#### **Goal 3**

- Membership, starting 2006, in a non-governmental coalition for a Special Rapporteur (or other special procedure or institution) on the elimination of laws that discriminate against women
- Press release on the violation of the right to education of women and girls, March 2009

#### **Goal 7**

- Environmental sustainability is an ongoing concern of the Union internationale des avocats Commission on Environment and Sustainable Development, and one of the main themes of the 2008 Union internationale des avocats annual congress was the right to water

#### **Goal 8**

- In the framework of activities of the Union internationale des avocats Business and Human Rights Commission in 2010, the organization created a summit on the Millennium Development Goals in 2010 with an action agenda for the next five years focusing upon the global role of lawyers in achieving Goal 8

## **9. Union of International Associations**

### **Special, 1951**

#### **Introduction**

The Union of International Associations, founded in 1907 and registered under Belgian law in 1910, has enjoyed consultative status with the Council since 1951.

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

No significant changes have been made in our aims and purposes since we first received consultative status.

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

No significant changes have been made in our orientation, programme or scope of work since we first received consultative status.

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

The Union of International Associations continues to document the evolution and nature of global civil society, as it has done since its founding. It maintains profiles on over 64,000 international bodies (non-governmental and intergovernmental). The standardized format of these profiles enables content and statistical comparisons.

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

As in past years, the Union of International Associations is represented by its special representatives Cyril Ritchie and Raymonde Martineau. Its work is primarily one of documentation. This requires access to relevant documents rather than participation in meetings.

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

The Union of International Associations maintains the civil society database of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of UNESCO under a special contract with that Section. It maintains (informal) contacts with all other United Nations bodies.

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

The Union of International Associations considers its work in collecting and documenting global civil society to be of vital importance to any United Nations activity involving civil society actors. It can identify and describe concerned civil society actors, including the links and cooperation between them.

### **Additional information**

The Union of International Associations has 100 years of experience in maintaining information on civil society actors. It would be happy to use that experience to more closely serve United Nations agencies.

## **10. Union of the Electricity Industry**

### **Special, 1947**

#### **Introduction**

The Union of the Electricity Industry is the sector association representing the common interests of the electricity industry at the pan-European level, plus its affiliates and associates on several other continents. Its full member structure is based on national representation, via national electricity associations. Currently, there are 33 full members, including all European Union member States, current applicants negotiating to join the European Union and other European countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Membership is enriched by European and international affiliate members representing the electricity industry across the rest of Europe, in the Mediterranean basin and on other continents and by business associate members from other sectors, with stakeholder links to or interest in the electricity industry.



**Aims and purposes of the organization**

In line with its missions, the organization seeks to contribute to the competitiveness of the electricity industry, to provide effective representation for the industry in public affairs and to promote the role of electricity both in the advancement of society and in helping to provide solutions to the challenges of sustainable development. Its formal opinions, policy positions and reports are formulated in working groups, composed of experts from the electricity industry, supervised by five committees. This structure of expertise ensures that the organization's published documents are based on high-quality input with up-to-date information.

**Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

**Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations****Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

Representatives attended meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2007 and organized, in conjunction with the World Coal Institute, the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association, the Electric Power Research Institute and the Edison Electric Institute, a side event on carbon capture and storage technologies. At the Conference of the Parties in 2008, the President of the organization was a keynote speaker. At the Conference of the Parties in 2009, the organization organized, in conjunction with its partners from the International Electricity Partnership, a side event to present a road map for a low-carbon power sector by 2050.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

There was no activity to report.

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

There was no activity to report.

**11. United Cities and Local Governments****General, 1947****Introduction**

United Cities and Local Governments is the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government. Representing over half of the world's population, its members are present in 140 Member States across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Eurasia, the Middle-East, Western Asia, Latin America and North America.

**Aims and purposes of the organization**

The organization aims at promoting local self-government values through cooperation between local governments and within the wider international community.

**Significant changes in the organization**

The annual meeting of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, held on 10 April 2011 in Nairobi, decided that the position of Chair of the Advisory Committee would be filled by the President of the organization.

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

In September 2008, the organization became a member of the advisory group of the first Development Cooperation Forum in New York, and participated in the high-level forum on aid effectiveness held in Accra, in September 2008.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

In April 2009, at the second forum of the Alliance of Civilizations, the organization stressed the role of local and regional governments for peace and dialogue. In May 2010, during the third forum of the Alliance, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the organization promoted the work that cities are undertaking for peaceful coexistence between cultures. At the 2010 Development Cooperation Forum, it made the case for strong accountable local governance as an effective accelerator of development. From Bali to Cancun (2007-2010), it has been involved in climate change negotiations, working with local government and municipal authorities. At the World Urban Forum organized by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Rio de Janeiro, the co-president of the organization gave a speech at the opening ceremony. It co-hosted a round table and took part in all Governing Council meetings of UN-Habitat from 2007 to 2011. It also organized a workshop for West African mayors on urban risk reduction, within the “Resilient Cities” campaign in Dakar in 2010.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

- The organization elects half of the members of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities and is now the Permanent Chair of the Committee.
- It has a special relationship with UN-Habitat and through rule 64 has a distinct right to participate as an observer in the UN-Habitat Governing Council.
- It was asked to advise the high-level United Nations Panel on the Alliance of Civilizations to ensure that the views of the world’s mayors and councillors are taken into account in the report to the General Assembly.
- It worked together with UN-Habitat in the making, promotion and dissemination of international guidelines on decentralization and access to basic services for all.
- It signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

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

It participated at the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in New York in 2010. A summit outcome document

was negotiated in order to recommend a number of actions in areas where local governments should hold greater responsibility.

## **12. United Nations Association of Russia**

### **General, 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 changes.

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

The Secretary-General of the United Nations Association chaired a panel on the theme “Future of human rights” at the Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, held in Paris, in September 2008. The organization participated with UNDP in Russia on a review of the Millennium Development Goals. It participated with UNESCO and the World Federation of United Nations Associations to sponsor and launch a global website on human rights and the work of the Human Rights Council in December 2008.

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

The organization’s student delegation participated in the first and second Global Model United Nations Conferences, held in Geneva from 5 to 7 August 2009, and in Kuala Lumpur from 4 to 18 August 2010. Members of the Association organized a meeting for high school students with the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations in Moscow on 22 November 2007. It also assisted in organizing a visit in March 2010 by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to Moscow State Institute of International Relations to address students and discuss the Association’s activities on the global agenda. The Association’s Secretary-General met with the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information in Moscow in May 2010.

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

The Association conducted activities in cooperation with such United Nations bodies as UNESCO, UNDP and the World Food Programme.

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

During the reporting period, the organization co-organized a forum on the maternal and child health and the demographic development of Saint-Petersburg until 2015; participated in a capacity-building workshop for Millennium Development Goals (Barcelona, Spain); hosted a round table on the effectiveness of State institutions in

promoting women's rights and the role of women's organizations (Saint-Petersburg); and participated at a Millennium Development Goals review with UNDP in the Russian Federation (2007-2010).

### **13. United States Burn Support Organization**

**Special, 2007**

#### **Introduction**

The United States Burn Support Organization is an International Public Charity based in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States of America.

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

The organization aims to provide support to those who have suffered injuries and/or disabilities, to treat burn survivors and their families with the utmost respect, compassion and understanding, to deliver resources needed to address their severe physical and emotional trauma and to create a safe environment for them as they begin the process of healing among peers who have experienced related struggles and triumphs. It also works to encourage and strengthen survivors to find beauty and acceptance within themselves so that they can lead healthy and productive lives. In return, they can teach others how to accept those who are different and disabled.

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

The United States Burn Support Organization has expanded its membership to include civilian and public safety (such as the police and firefighters) representatives and members of the business sector, including such entities as WaWa, Chick-Fil-A, FedEx, UPS, Disney Satellite Radio, Herr's Chips Corporation, Smith and Nephew, TD Bank Corporation and Millersville University in Pennsylvania.

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

In January 2005, the organization's Executive Board received a request to take part in the official proceedings of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Since that time, the Board has succeeded in adopting and applying the articles and principles therein to the everyday activity of the organization. It has worked with corporations and educational systems (for example, middle schools, high schools and colleges) to fully explain and support the overall idea of the Convention.

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

The United States Burn Support Organization continues to participate in and promote the work of the United Nations.

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

It has worked with a number of United Nations bodies, including the Human Rights Committee, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly, the Disarmament Commission, and the Commission on the Status of Women.

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

The United States Burn Support Organization has attended and taken part in various meetings and/or events centred on the Millennium Development Goals. It has held formal briefings in schools in the United States on United Nations processes. It has also adopted a number of Millennium Development Goals policies, such as on ensuring access to food and water, basic access to health care, access to education and the eradication of discrimination on the basis of race, sex, and/or creed or national origin.

### **Additional information**

There is no additional information.

## **14. United States Committee for UNIFEM**

### **Special, 1999**

#### **Introduction**

Chartered in 1983, the United States Committee for UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, is one of 18 national committees worldwide that support the mission of UNIFEM.

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

The organization recognizes the need for drawing the attention of the American public to the scope of the work of the United Nations, particularly insofar as the rights of women and girls are concerned.

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

The most significant changes in the organization in 2009 were that the numbers of regional chapters increased rapidly, and the organization improved its ability to communicate its message to the general public by use of modern social media through the expertise of its communications committee. Its publicity is found on the social media and on its website ([www.unifem-usnc.org](http://www.unifem-usnc.org)). In addition, it now has all inclusive national and local board teleconferences designed to increase communication between boards of directors at the national and chapter levels. It developed a strategic fund development plan in March 2009 to guarantee that financial support for UNIFEM would be a fundamental aspect of the organization. Another change occurred in the fall of 2010 when the organization learned that after January 2011 UNIFEM would change its name and become integrated into the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). The organization is in the process of preparing the proper official documents to make a commensurate change in its name.

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

For over 15 years, the New York Chapter of the organization has hosted an annual luncheon for 200 people in the United Nations Delegates Dining Room during the first week of the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women. The wife of

the Secretary-General has always been the Honorary Chair of the event and the Executive Director of UNIFEM and other prominent members of the United Nations have attended. At its annual meetings in June, the organization holds conferences for at least 250 people addressing the work of UNIFEM, using its staff as keynote speakers and leaders of panels. On 22 June 2007, in Washington, D.C., it hosted a gala celebration of the thirtieth anniversary of UNIFEM, with the support of Sweden's National Committee for UNIFEM and Hillary Rodham Clinton. In Chicago, Illinois, from 10 to 12 July 2009, it hosted a conference on the theme "Empowering women: transforming lives".

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

During the reporting period, board members and others attended the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and supported the statements of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on UNIFEM, for example, the statement issued in 2009 for the fifty-third session (E/CN.6/2009/NGO/41).

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

According to the Recognition Agreement of 2002 between UNIFEM and all national committees, the organization must provide UNIFEM annually with a minimum amount of \$50,000 in addition to sending publications to its constituency.

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

The organization remains committed to supporting the United Nations in the achievement of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, particularly, but not exclusively, Goal 3, concerning the elimination of gender disparity. In fact, all of the eight goals are relative to issues concerning women, and all of its work to support UNIFEM relates to the Goals. Detailed fact sheets concerning the Goals have been presented at various events over the years by local chapters and then sent to all on the organization's mailing list. The fact sheets show that UNIFEM contributes to all of the Goals.

#### **Additional information**

The 18 national committees have been welcomed by UN-Women and are included in its structure.

### **15. Vali-Asr Rehabilitation Foundation for Disabled Children and Adults**

#### **Special, 2007**

##### **Introduction**

There have been no changes.

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

The aims and purposes of the organization have largely remained the same.

**Significant changes in the organization**

The organization changed its acronym from VRI to VRF, for Vali-Asr Rehabilitation Foundation.

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

The main activities of the organization support the agenda of the Council. In the reporting period, the organization:

- (a) Expanded its geographical outreach to assist developmentally disabled people (ages 4-14) throughout the country by providing such equipment as wheelchairs, and walkers, mostly free of charge;
- (b) Provided training to the families of disabled people through materials such as booklets, videos and books;
- (c) Promoted community awareness through cooperation with entities such as *Iranian Radio* and television organizations in order to produce related programmes;
- (d) Empowered disabled people in economic areas and conducted training and cooperative workshops;
- (e) Expanded sports and recreation programmes to include and improve the quality of life of disabled people and their families.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The activities of the organization mainly focused on national and local activities. Attending international meetings and conferences held at United Nations offices in the United States was difficult owing to the visa situation, but the organization attended local meetings related to the United Nations.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

Any information that was requested from the United Nations was provided promptly by the organization.

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

There have been no initiatives.

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