United Nations  $E_{\text{C.2/2012/2/Add.2}}$ 



## **Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General 5 August 2011

Original: English

## **Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations**

2012 regular session

30 January-8 February, and 17 February 2012

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. ActionAid

#### Special, 1991

#### Introduction

There have been no changes.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

There have been no changes.

#### Significant changes in the organization

ActionAid will launch a new strategy to be implemented from 2012 to 2016. The two-tier governance structure adopted to implement its mission and objectives includes an assembly consisting of affiliate and associate members who are responsible for the strategic governance of ActionAid, and an international board consisting of independent members elected by the assembly and responsible for ongoing and effective decision-making and oversight of the secretariat.

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

In 2010, the organization successfully concluded involvement in the Women Won't Wait coalition. Its leadership was formally recognized at the XVIII International AIDS Conference entitled "Rights Here, Right Now" hosted in Vienna from 18 to 23 July 2010.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

## Participated/attended

- Doha Global Civil Society Forum, held in Doha on 26 and 27 November 2008, and the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held from 29 November to 2 December 2008
- United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development in New York in June 2009
- United Nations High-level Conference on South-South Cooperation in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development held in Geneva in May 2010
- Fifty-third, fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York
- Economic and Social Council high-level segment held in Geneva from 4 to 8 July 2011, where representatives of the organization's international education team and HIV/AIDS team submitted a written statement

## **Organized**

The organization held three parallel events on unpaid care work, comprehensive sexuality education and violence against girls in school.

## **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

ActionAid continues to cooperate with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the fields of education, food security and sovereignty, emergencies and conflict, women's rights and HIV and AIDS by preparing and contributing to research papers and studies and jointly sponsoring meetings. It also conducts humanitarian activities and donor-funded operational projects by working with independent United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the United Nations Democracy Fund, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme.

ActionAid jointly hosted activities and events with independent United Nations agencies, including:

- United Nations Girls' Education Initiative. In collaboration with the Institute of Education, University of London, ActionAid provided technical assistance and research input into United Nations-related products and materials.
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). In collaboration with Marie Stopes (Sierra Leone branch), ActionAid contributed to the call by OHCHR for input on good and effective practices in adopting a human rights-based approach to eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity.
- UNAIDS. ActionAid manages the UNAIDS technical support facility for South Asia based in Kathmandu.
- Committee on World Food Security. ActionAid, in collaboration with the Governance Working Group of the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty and Oxfam International, submitted a proposal at the thirty-sixth session of the Committee on World Food Security held in Rome from 11 to 14 and 16 October 2010, and worked closely with the Human Rights Council by engaging with special procedure candidates.
- Special Rapporteur on the right to education.
- Special Rapporteur on the right to food.
- Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

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

At the General Assembly session in September 2007, ActionAid launched a five-year campaign called HungerFREE that focuses on Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals. Since then ActionAid has developed various resources, including the report entitled "Who's really fighting hunger?", which was launched on 14 September 2010 in New York ahead of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals.

From 20 to 22 September 2010, ActionAid participated in that meeting and participated as a representative of civil society at round table 1.

#### **Additional information**

There is no additional information.

## 2. Join Together Society

#### 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 changes.

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

Join Together Society has been actively providing humanitarian support in its commitment to ending world hunger, disease and illiteracy, and has been providing emergency relief in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka.

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

Unfortunately, the Society was unable to participate in any meetings of the United Nations from 2007 to 2010.

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

In cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Society provided food aid to Haiti under the coordination of United Nations peacekeeping forces in March 2010. The food aid totalled 45 tons of rice, 4.5 tons of beans and 7,570 litres of cooking oil.

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

#### Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

**The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (2007-2010).** The organization supplied foods to vulnerable people in North Hamkyung and South Pyongan provinces and provided 150 tons of corn, 100 tons of rice, 3,290 tons of flour, 495 tons of noodles and 3.75 tons of potatoes.

**India.** Under the "goat bank" project, the organization has supplied 518 goats to 256 households in Dungeshwari since 2009.

**Sri Lanka** (2008-2010). In collaboration with the Sewalanka Foundation, the organization restored an agricultural reservoir and 28 drinking and agricultural wells in Anuradhapura. The Society also distributed seeds, fertilizer, chickens and cows.

**Indonesia** (2009). The organization provided 25,880 kg of rice, 300 tents and 308 sets of kitchen appliances to 1,371 households in eight areas of West Sumatra that suffered from an earthquake.

## Achieve universal primary education

**The Democratic People's Republic of Korea** (2009). The organization provided school supplies to 12 schools (55,020 notepads, 107,136 pens and 5,288 school bags).

**India.** The Society has been running Sujata Academy in Dungeshwari. Some 869 children have completed elementary school education at the academy as at December 2010.

**Philippines.** The organization built 13 schools in Midanao and provided school supplies to 6,491 students.

**Cambodia** (2009-2010). The Society built seven schools and provided school supplies to 1,034 students in Kouk Krasang, Kouk Rovieng, Thmor Teuk Dach and Pachon Thum tun Krah Ta Veaeng Leu.

**Indonesia** (2009). The organization provided 1,260 students with 519 school uniforms, 700 school bags, and 1,307 sets of school supplies in West Sumatra after an earthquake.

**Haiti** (2010). The organization restored five schools in five villages in the area of Leogane, which had been destroyed by an earthquake.

#### Promote gender equality and empower women

**India.** The organization established an elementary school and provided free education to 50,869 students as at December 2010, including 486 boys (55.9 per cent) and 383 girls (44.1 per cent).

### Reduce child mortality rates

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The society provided 53 orphanages and institutions for disabled children with basic nutritional foods (soy milk, 719,424 litres; powdered milk, 67 tons; powdered seaweed soup, 25 tons; nourishing food, 20 tons).

**India.** Using standards set by the World Health Organization, Jivaka Hospital at Dungeswari conducted a survey of 1,210 children under age 5 and found that 14.4 per cent were underweight. The Society provided nutritious foods to 764 underweight children, and Jivaka Hospital has been providing free vaccinations against tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles and hepatitis A for infants.

## Improve maternal health

**India.** Since 2007, Jivaka Hospital has provided the family planning education programme for Dungeswari. As part of the programme, 25 residents underwent a free family planning operation on 22 December 2009. Since 2009, the Society has been providing nutritional supplements to mothers and iron to pregnant women.

## Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

**India.** The organization first started its tuberculosis elimination project in Dungeswari in November 2001, and Javika Hospital adopted the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme in June 2008. Since then, the average duration of medical treatment has been reduced from 21 months to 6 months.

#### **Ensure environmental sustainability**

**India.** The organization constructed 33 wells and hand-powered water pumps in Dungeswari.

**Philippines.** The Society constructed 12 drinking wells throughout Mindanao.

Cambodia. The Society constructed two wells in Kouk Krasang and Kouk Vieng.

#### Additional information

There is no additional information.

# 3. L'auravetl'an Information and Education Network of Indigenous People

#### Special, 2007

#### Introduction

L'auravetl'an Information and Education Network of Indigenous Peoples is a national umbrella organization that represents more than 20 indigenous communities of Siberia and the north and far east areas of the Russian Federation.

### Aims and purposes of the organization and its main course of action

The main aims of the organization are to improve the abilities of these indigenous communities to participate more actively and to create a mechanism that lets indigenous communities communicate with the outer world and with each other.

#### Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

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

The organization monitored all regular and special sessions of the General Assembly, annual sessions of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies, and other bodies that focused on indigenous issues. During United Nationssponsored meetings, organization representatives made 18 written and oral statements, as well as 3 joint statements.

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

## 2007

• Sixtieth Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference.

- Informal interactive hearing with representatives of civil society on interreligious and intercultural understanding and cooperation for peace (New York, 4 and 5 October)
- Informal meeting to discuss the most appropriate mechanisms to continue the work of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (Geneva, 6 and 7 December)

The organization also held a series of educational conferences aimed at representatives of indigenous peoples' organizations, academia and United Nations agencies, including the following:

- Seminar on the theme "Traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples", which took place during the sixth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Workshop on traditional knowledge, which was organized during the sixtieth Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference.

#### 2008

The organization participated in the seventy-third session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Geneva, 27 July to 15 August).

#### 2009

The organization participated in the Durban Review Conference (Geneva, 20 to 24 April). Together with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the organization prepared and presented a booklet entitled "Traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples" at the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (New York, 27 May).

#### 2007 and 2010

The organization participated in the Russian linguistic component of the Indigenous Fellowship Programme held in Moscow in October 2007 and November 2010, and in Geneva in November 2007 and from November to December 2010.

#### 2007 to 2009

The organization participated in the sixth, seventh and eighth sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues held in New York.

#### 2008 to 2010

The organization participated in the thirteenth, fourteenth and seventeenth sessions of the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore held in Geneva.

## 2008 and 2010

The organization participated in the first and third sessions of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples held in Geneva.

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

#### 2008

The organization collaborated with WIPO to issue the booklet entitled "Traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples" in English and Russian.

#### 2009

Together with OHCHR, the organization began implementation of a project on the translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into 10 indigenous languages of the Russian Federation (Veps, Karelian, Nganasan, Nenets, Shorian, Evenk, Altaian, Yakut, Khakas and Tuvinian). The organization, in collaboration with WIPO, also held an international seminar on the theme "Traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples: issues of preservation and legal protection, international and national aspects" for representatives of indigenous communities of Siberia and the north and far east areas of the Russian Federation on 22 and 23 October.

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

The organization supports the Millennium Development Goals through legal campaigns and educational seminars for indigenous representatives on the provision of their rights to access land and natural resources. For the period 2007-2010, the organization held 16 three-week legal trainings and 32 seminars devoted to the issues of the provision of indigenous peoples' rights to land, water and forest resources.

#### **Additional information**

There is no additional information.

## 4. Legal Service Coalition

## Special, 2007

#### Introduction

Legal Service Coalition is dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights by raising public sensitivity; by advocating at local, national, and international levels; and by strengthening the Coalition member organizations.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

There have been no changes.

## Significant changes in the organization

The Coalition produced and adopted a new quadrennial strategic plan for the period 2010-2013.

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

Over the past four years, the Coalition and its member organizations focused on the promotion and protection of human rights of marginalized groups, especially

displaced persons (refugees, returnees, internally displaced persons) and persons belonging to national minorities. A new law on free legal aid was adopted in Croatia in 2008, and six out of the current nine member organizations of the Coalition registered as free legal aid providers in accordance with the law. They continued providing free legal aid to all those in need.

The focus of the most important projects of the Coalition implemented in the past four years included:

- Role and possibilities of modern technology in promoting and protecting human rights
- Promotion and protection of human rights
- Promotion of European values against racism and xenophobia at the local and regional levels
- Minority rights in south-eastern Europe, including a national action plan for Croatia for the period from 2007-2008

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

#### 2008

- The Executive Director of the Coalition for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights Osijek participated at the sixty-first Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, held in Paris from 3 to 5 September.
- The Coalition participated in a conference on the theme "Reaffirming human rights for all: the Universal Declaration at 60" held in Paris from 3 to 5 September, organized by the Executive Committee of Non-Governmental Organizations, associated with the Department of Public Information, UNESCO, OHCHR and France.

## **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

- The organization collaborated with the Representation Office in Croatia of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Croatian Ministry of Justice, the Centre for Human Rights and the Coalition for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to organize an international conference on the theme "Access to justice: one year of experience in applying the law on free legal aid", held in Zagreb on 26 July 2010.
- In April 2010, the Coalition was part of an ad hoc coalition of civil society organizations that participated in the universal periodic review. The ad hoc coalition held several working meetings in order to thoroughly review and report on the state and protection of human rights in Croatia. Its goal was to highlight the most striking human rights violations and provide recommendations as to how the present situation could and should be improved.

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

- The Coalition organized numerous events in several cities and towns in Croatia on the occasions of World Refugee Day, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, International Day against Fascism and Anti-Semitism, and Human Rights Day
- The Coalition published relevant statements on its official website, in its printed media and in its broadcasts on local and national electronic media
- Coalition representatives participated in television shows and spoke about problems facing refugees and minorities, and about the general state of human rights in Croatia
- On the occasion of World Refugee Day 2010, the Coalition initiated humanitarian action to help returnees and refugees in two regions in Croatia; however, only one company responded and provided chocolate and candy packages for returnee families with small children

#### **Additional information**

Since April 2008, the Coalition has been a member of the European Non-governmental Organization for Relief and Development working group on enlargement, pre-accession and neighbourhood issues.

#### 5. Liberal International

## General, 1995

#### Introduction

Liberal International is a world federation of liberal political parties that acts as an international forum where governing and opposition parties meet to exchange ideas and foster dialogue, consultation and inspiration for the creation, deepening and consolidation of (liberal) democracy.

## Aims and purposes of the organization

There have been no changes.

#### Significant changes in the organization

Hans Van Baleen, Member of European Parliament, succeeded Lord Alderdice as the new President of the organization.

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

#### 2007

- Conducted a human rights workshop on the theme of "Security and human rights" in Cancun, Mexico, 30 April
- Held a human rights conference in Taipei, Taiwan Province of China, 26 to 29 September

• Held a human rights conference on the theme of "Strengthening Networks and Combating Human Trafficking" in Taipei, 7 to 10 December

#### 2008

- Presented special reports on child soldiers in the context of the organization's human rights committee at the fifty-sixth Liberal International Congress held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, 15 to 17 May
- Adopted resolutions on the current global situation and on the prohibition of persecution and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, freedom of speech, climate change, food prices, overcoming conflict and the global population crisis at the fifty-sixth Liberal International Congress held in Belfast, Northern Ireland, 15 to 17 May

#### 2009

- Adopted resolutions on issues such as the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, the violence in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, ending sexual exploitation and abuse in the world and the importance of human rights to democracy at the organization's Executive Committee meeting on the theme "The impact of the global economic crisis on democracy and human rights", held in Strasbourg, France, on 25 January
- Adopted resolutions on the rights of women in Afghanistan and the situation in Kosovo and the Republic of Moldova at the organization's Executive Committee meeting on the theme "Strengthening the liberal agenda" held in Vancouver, Canada, from 1 to 3 May
- Adopted resolutions on the current global situation and other national and regional issues at the fifty-seventh Liberal International Congress, held in Cairo from 29 to 31 October

#### 2010

- Visited Chisinau to review the human rights situation in the country from 15 to 17 February
- Co-organized the Geneva Summit for Human Resources, Tolerance and Democracy, held in Geneva on 8 and 9 March, through its youth organization, the International Federation of Liberal Youth
- Held a panel discussion on the theme "Human rights and women's participation" at the organization's Executive Committee meeting held in Berlin from 11 to 13 June
- Adopted resolutions and promoted decentralization in Africa at the organization's Executive Committee meeting held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 13 and 14 November

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

#### 2007

Human Rights Council meeting, Geneva, 27 to 29 March

#### 2008

Sixty-first United Nations Department of Public Information Conference for Non-governmental Organizations, Paris, 3 to 5 September

#### 2009

- Fourth session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review, Geneva, 2 to 13 February
- Tenth session of the Human Rights Council, Geneva, 2 to 27 March
- Meeting with OHCHR, Geneva, 17 June
- Twelfth session of the UNHRC, Geneva, 14 September to 2 October; a written statement was submitted to UNHRC
- Sixty-second Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, Mexico City, 9 to 11 September

#### 2010

- Thirteenth session of UNHRC, Geneva, 10 March
- Regular session of the Committee on Non-governmental Organizations of the Economic and Social Council, New York, 4 June
- General debate session of the Third Committee of the General Assembly, New York, 28 October

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

## 2008-2009

Meetings of the organization's Secretary-General with United Nations General Assembly President Srdjan Kerim

#### 2009-2010

- Accreditation of Deputy President to the United Nations in New York
- Accreditation of Human Rights Committee Deputy Chairman to the United Nations in Geneva

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

- Awarding of the organization's "Prize for Freedom", presented every year to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the promotion of freedom and human rights
- The organization published a book entitled *Defining Liberty: A Look at the First 25 Years of the Liberal International Prize for Freedom* (2009), which includes speeches by Prize for Freedom laureates from 1985-2009
- The organization issues a special human rights newsletter on a regular basis, raising awareness about human rights violations and promoting equal rights for all. One issue in 2008 of the magazine *Liberal Matters* was dedicated to

democratic transition and human rights, coinciding with the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

#### Additional information

Member parties are represented in parliaments and governments around the world, giving the organization the potential to directly impact the creation and implementation of important international policies, as well as diplomatic activities.

#### 6. Life Ethics Educational Association

## Special, 1999

#### Introduction

The Life Ethics Educational Association is a non-governmental organization based in Canada dedicated to raising public awareness of "right to life" issues, particularly before birth and at the end of life.

## Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization seeks to advocate for the preborn, the disabled, the infirm and the elderly by promoting respect for all human life from fertilization to natural death by fostering and promoting public understanding in and knowledge of life issues, including, but not limited to, foetal development, abortion, new reproductive technologies, adoption, palliative care, euthanasia, physician-assisted suicide, human experimentation, post-abortion syndrome and chastity/abstinence education.

## Significant changes in the organization

The organization's main representative relocated to New York, which has greatly facilitated its ability to participate in United Nations meetings and make connections with other non-governmental organizations accredited by the Economic and Social Council.

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

In addition to participating at United Nations meetings, the organization has partnered with other non-governmental organizations accredited by the Economic and Social Council to help organize events for the broader United Nations community. The organization's representatives have also spoken at panels and side events hosted by other organizations during conferences such as the Commission on the Status of Women. On 15 September 2010, the organization partnered with other non-governmental organizations, such as Focus on the Family and Matercare International, and the Permanent Missions of the Philippines and Malawi to the United Nations to convene a panel of experts to discuss Goal 5 of the Millennium Development Goals and maternal health.

## Participation in meetings of the United Nations

#### 2007

- Commission on the Status of Women, 26 February to 9 March
- Commission on Population and Development, 9 to 13 April

#### 2008

- Commission for Social Development, 6 to 15 February
- Commission on the Status of Women, 25 February to 7 March
- Commission on Population and Development, 7 to 11 April
- United Nations High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, 8 to 10 June
- Commission for Social Development, 6 to 15 February
- Women Deliver Conference, 18 to 20 October 2007

#### 2009

- Commission on the Status of Women, 2 to 13 March
- Commission on Population and Development, 30 March to 3 April

#### 2010

- Commission on Social Development, 3 to 12 February
- Commission on the Status of Women, 1 to 12 March
- Commission on Population and Development, 12 to 16 April
- High-level Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, 20 to 22 September
- World Youth Conference, 24 to 27 August 2010.
- Women Deliver Conference, 7 to 9 June 2010

In preparation for the United Nations Year of Youth, the organization has been actively working to inform its younger constituents through talks and seminars.

## **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

Not applicable.

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

The Association was a host and organizer of an event in September 2010 regarding Goal 5 on improving maternal health. The organization believes it is important to educate young people on the work of the United Nations, particularly in regard to Goals 2, 3, 4 and 5, by organizing training sessions for its volunteers prior to participation in United Nations meetings so that they can actively discuss and engage with other representatives of non-governmental organizations, United Nations personnel and country representatives. From 2007 to 2010, the organization

trained more than 100 young volunteers who then attended United Nations conferences as its representatives.

## 7. Mayors for Peace

#### Special, 1991

#### Introduction

In August 1945, single atomic bombs destroyed the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and took hundreds of thousands of lives. Many survivors still suffer today, more than sixty-five years later, from the physical and emotional after-effects of radiation. To ensure that the atomic tragedy is never repeated anywhere on Earth, Hiroshima and Nagasaki have consistently sought to persuade the world that nuclear weapons are illegal, immoral and must be completely eliminated. On 24 June 1982, at the second special session on disarmament held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, then-mayor of Hiroshima Takeshi Araki announced a programme to promote the solidarity of cities towards the total abolition of nuclear weapons — a plan to build transnational solidarity among cities to facilitate collective efforts toward the elimination of nuclear weapons. The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki issued a joint call to cities everywhere to support this programme. Mayors for Peace is a conference of cities that have formally expressed support for the programme described above. In March 1990, Mayors for Peace was registered as a non-governmental organization with the Department of Public Information.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

Mayors for Peace raises international public awareness on the abolition of nuclear weapons, but also works to alleviate starvation and poverty, assist refugees fleeing local conflict, support human rights and protect the environment so that it can contribute to the realization of lasting world peace. Mayors for Peace has been focusing recently on the total elimination of nuclear weapons. These inhumane, illegal weapons threaten the very existence of human beings. Since 2003, the organization has been promoting its 2020 Vision, an emergency campaign to ban nuclear weapons by 2020. Together with cities, citizens and non-governmental organizations around the world, Mayors for Peace has developed numerous activities, most recently a petition drive calling for the prompt commencement of negotiations for a nuclear weapons convention.

#### Significant changes in the organization

By promoting the 2020 Vision Campaign and the disarmament goal of 2020, the organization has grown from 1,500 cities in 2007 to nearly 4,400 cities in 2010. This growth requires a strengthening of the network and the methods of communication among its member cities. The final document adopted at the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) held in May mentioned the nuclear weapons convention for the first time in the history of the conference. Based on this outcome, the organization held a conference in Hiroshima for the total abolition of nuclear weapons by 2020 and adopted the Hiroshima Appeal, a new set of campaign guidelines, including the appeal to start negotiations on the nuclear weapons convention.

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

The first resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations was about nuclear disarmament. Through our members, our staff and our allies in non-governmental organization, the organization is spreading the word about nuclear disarmament to all corners of the globe.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in preparatory committee meetings, held in 2007, 2008 and 2009, for the NPT Review Conference with a mayoral delegation of member mayors and allied partners. The organization also participated in the 2010 NPT Review Conference in New York with 89 representatives from 30 member cities in 10 countries. Mayors for Peace also attended the sixty-second Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, held in Mexico City in 2009. The organization's staff attends numerous meetings at the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna.

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

Mayors for Peace maintains close communication with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Non-Governmental Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security and does its best to coordinate all its activities with the Office. In July 2010, the organization brought a senior political affairs officer of the Office for Disarmament Affairs to Hiroshima to speak at the Hiroshima Conference. The organization's 1 million petition forms with signatures calling for the elimination of nuclear weapons have been on display at United Nations Headquarters since March 2011.

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

Mayors for Peace is the fastest growing and possibly the largest international association of municipalities in the world. It is bringing cities together in partnership initially for the elimination of nuclear weapons, but ultimately the organization believes it is making a substantial contribution to the goal of global partnership.

## 8. Mbutu Agriculture Society

#### Special, 1999

## Introduction

Mbutu Agricultural Society was founded in January 1993 as a non-governmental, non-political and non-religious organization.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

There have been no changes.

## Significant changes in the organization

The organization has expanded to national and international levels with the cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Food Programme, Sustainability Education and Ecological Design International, Project AWARE United Kingdom, the Organic Crop Improvement Association International, the United States Agency for International Development and local universities such as Ardhi University and Dar Es Salaam University College of Education.

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

#### 2009

- The organization conducted a project targeting land-use conservation for horticulture and paddy growers along Ruvu River at Mlandizi Division, Kibaha District, Pwani Region
- The Society conducted a project on controlling land degradation by raising awareness of the problem to peasants living within the Kilombero and Rumemo river basins in Ifakara Ward, Kilombero District, Morogoro Region (July to October)
- The organization conducted a project that focused on aquatic conservation practices among small farmers cultivating paddy within the Ruvu river valley, Mlandizi Division, Kibaha District, Pwani Region

#### 2010

The Society conducted a tree-planting project along Nyerere road in Dar Es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania.

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

The organization attended the Fifth African Population Conference held in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, from 10 to 14 December 2007.

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

In 2008, the Chief Executive Officer of the Society received an invitation and full sponsorship from the UNDP United Republic of Tanzania office to attend the Sullivan Summit held in Arusha from 2 to 6 May 2008. The Summit brought together African and American entrepreneurs and investors in the infrastructure, tourism and environment sectors to meet the development needs of the United Republic of Tanzania and Africa, and reached out to Asia as a source of strategic partnerships and investment-generating opportunities.

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

## Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Supported out-of-school youth in gender-sensitive sexual reproductive health and HIV/AIDS education:

- Established 120 health clubs, 8 theatre groups and 15 competitions in different school settings at Tuangoma and Changombe (Temeke District) and Mbamba Bay Ward (Mbinga District) in Ruvuma Region
- Identified and trained 120 out-of-school youths to become peer educators for their fellow students and pupils
- Trained 200 out-of-school youths on life skills and HIV education using peer educators

The organization educated 38 sex workers and imparted knowledge to negotiate safer sex, such as using condoms, and trained 120 men to promote life skills and responsible behaviour in sexual and family relations. The organization also solicited funds to buy 12 cartons of condoms and distribute them to groups within the community.

The organization identified 36 drug users/abusers and developed a strategy on responding to the abuse. Eleven abusers have terminated their behaviour and are undergoing treatment therapy and rehabilitation.

The organization worked with the communities of Tabata and Kimara on environmental sanitation within their surroundings to decrease breeding sites for mosquitoes, reaching a total of 200 households. The organization created fact-sheets on the importance of using insecticide-treated mosquito nets and going to the health unit for early diagnosis and treatment.

#### **Additional information**

In all its activities between 2008 and 2010 the organization developed best practices regarding transparency. The Society is a registered Agricultural Society Trust with 74 members. All members are involved in the planning, design and implementation of projects.

## 9. Mediterranean Women's Studies Centre

## Special, 1987

#### Introduction

Mediterranean Women's Studies Centre geographical coverage: Greece, the Mediterranean, Europe, Asia, Africa.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

- To study, analyse and improve the position of women in the family and in economic, social and public life
- To increase awareness and stimulate action that will promote equality between women and men in all areas of life
- To sensitize women about ecological problems and mobilize them to protect the environment and save the Mediterranean basin from pollution
- To assist women in preserving their cultural heritage and their women's values

- To empower women through education in order to exercise their rights in all areas of life
- To develop methods and take initiative for conflict resolution and the promotion of peace in the Mediterranean
- To initiate activities for the promotion of democracy and human rights
- To support national, regional and international campaigns and programmes about issues of major concern such as HIV/AIDS, drugs, alcoholism, violence, racism, xenophobia and youth criminality

To achieve its objectives the organization has developed various areas of responsibilities:

- Feminist and action-oriented research
- A gender studies programme
- Seminars, symposia, workshops, conferences and meetings on a wide number of issues related mainly to women and youth
- A programme of feminist alternatives for the promotion of peace and security
- Activities related to the protection of the environment
- Development projects for women in developing countries

#### Significant changes in the organization

In May 2009 the organization became a member of the Anna Lindh Foundation Network, which is active in Mediterranean countries and aims to facilitate intercultural dialogue in the Mediterranean.

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

The organization carried out two workshops in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund to promote Security Council Resolution 1235 (1999).

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

- In 2007, a board member attended the fifteenth policy session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, held in New York from 30 April to 11 May.
- In 2009, the same board member attended the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development held in New York from 24 to 26 June. The organization's Secretary-General attended the third session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption held in Doha from 9 to 15 November.
- In 2010, the same board member attended the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in New York from 3 to 14 May. The organization's President and Treasurer attended as observers of the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in Vienna from 18 to 22 October.

## **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

From 19 to 23 February, the organization, in collaboration with the Technical Support Division of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) carried out a five-day capacity-building training workshop on the theme "Leadership, management, communications skills and project planning" for women and men from 12 different regions of Indonesia. UNFPA funded and organized the workshop while the Centre organized and implemented the training, which was carried out in Bali, Indonesia. The workshop focused on Security Council resolution 1235 (1999).

From 10 to 15 June, the organization, continuing its cooperation with UNFPA, carried out a five-day capacity-building training workshop for Iraqi women on the theme Conflict resolution, communication skills and organizational management" in Istanbul, Turkey. The workshop focused on Security Council resolution 1235 (1999).

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

No initiatives were taken.

## 10. National Council of Negro Women

#### General, 1995

#### Introduction

The National Council of Negro Women is a council of national African American women's organizations and community-based sections. Founded in 1935, its mission is to lead, develop and advocate for women of African descent as they support their families and communities.

#### 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

A representative from the organization helped to organize the sixtieth Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference on the theme "Climate change: how it impacts us all". The representative worked on the Planning Committee's networking committee to get non-governmental organizations to work in partnership on climate change issues. In addition, four of the organization's members attended the conference and subsequently presented reports on the programmes at their local community meetings, reaching approximately 150 persons in four different settings. An organization representative distributed more than 500 copies of Africa Renewal Magazine at the National Council of Negro Women Black Family Reunion Celebration at the organization's International Division educational programme held on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. More than 500,000 people attended this event. An organization representative worked on the media

outreach committee of the New York NGO Committee on the Status of Women to promote conference and NGO Consultation Day activities for the fifty-second session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. In addition, five members of the organization attended the session. An organization representative presented reports on programme activities to members and submitted articles for the organization's newsletter.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

In 2007, members of the organization attended the sixty-first Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference (New York, 5 to 7 September).

#### 2008

- Fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the theme "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women" (New York, 25 February to 7 March 2008)
- United Nation Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) session on the theme of opportunities in the 2008 presidential election for women's issues (New York, 13 March 2008)
- UNA-USA meeting on the theme of assessing the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention at its tenth anniversary (New York, 3 April 2008)
- Update on the work of the General Assembly: non-governmental organization briefing, by Srdjan Kerim, President of the General Assembly (New York, 10 July 2008)

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

#### 2009

- Representative attended NGO Consultation Day (New York, 1 March)
- Representative attended the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 2 to 13 March)
- Representative attended the Commission on the Status of Women event on the theme "The impact of HIV/AIDS caregiving on girls and older women" (New York, 5 March)
- Representative attended the UNA-USA workshop on the theme of addressing the caregiving burden and gender gaps in the emergency plan for AIDS relief put forth by the President of the United States (New York, 12 March)
- Representative attended the event held by the Commission on the Status of Women on the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (2000) (New York, 1 to 12 March)

#### 2010

Representative participated in the event commemorating the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (1999) on women, peace and security (New York, 25 to 29 October)

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

The organization, in collaboration with Women in Law and Development and other women's organizations, provided basic education and technology access programmes to help women establish literacy and economic growth programmes in Benin.

#### 11. Sahara for Life Trust

## Special, 2007

#### Introduction

Sahara for Life Trust is a tax-exempt charitable organization enjoying consultative status with the Economic and Social Affairs Council and is certified by the Pakistan Centre for Philanthropy and accredited by charity commissions of Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Sughra Shafi Medical Complex in Narowal, Pakistan, is a 250-bed general hospital that serves about 10,000 out-patients per month. The organization established a state-of-the-art lab with fully computerized, highly automated equipment that includes 50 franchises throughout the country. The organization provides 24-hour ambulance services at "HATCHER" on the Lahore Narowal Highway. The organization is in the process of establishing a medical college, and has already established a research centre for indigenous therapies at the medical complex and put in place the services of Fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons doctors. The organization works throughout Pakistan, particularly in remote rural areas like District Narowal. The organization has provided support in Lebanon during war and in Indonesia after the tsunami in 2010.

### Aims and purposes of the organization

Sahara envisions reaching the unreached by providing health-care services, realizing distributive justice through education, and promoting silent revolution through social services.

The organization's mission is to serve and facilitate the underserved, underprivileged and deprived population of the rural areas of Pakistan through the provision of health and education services, and to provide relief and rehabilitation services in response to national and international natural calamities. Its aims and purpose are to establish and maintain hospitals, medical centres, maternity homes, first aid centres and educational institutions for underprivileged and downtrodden people in Pakistan.

## Significant changes in the organization

The organization has managed about PRs.650 million in projects in flood-affected areas in 2010 and 2011. Sahara worked to bring a positive change through expansion in its scope of work and geographical extension in all areas of the country. Thus the organization succeeded in improving the following activities:

- Health indicators in District Narowal through clinical services
- Poverty alleviation indicators through vocational training in Tehsil Pasrur
- Relief and rehabilitation in earthquake, flood relief and rehabilitation activities
- Ongoing research

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

After the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, the organization collected PRs.30 million in donations and provided 3,200 fibreglass huts. With the help of the army of Pakistan and the United States, the organization transported the huts, patients and relief goods to snowbound areas. The organization managed medical teams of surgeons, physicians, orthopaedic surgeons and gynaecologists in Balakot and Chanari. The organization also provided 90 trucks loaded with eatables, blankets, warm clothes and tents.

During the 2006 war in Lebanon, the organization worked with the health ministry to supply medicines valued at PRs.20 million.

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

The organization will participate in a United Nations forum to be held in June 2011.

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

The organization has been working in coordination with the Red Cross, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees during flood-relief activities.

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

The organization has contributed to Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals on poverty alleviation by establishing vocational training centres and providing jobs to about 1,000 people. In literacy and women empowerment (Millennium Development Goals 2 and 3), the organization has established a girl's middle school in District Muzaffargarh in the flood-affected area. The organization is in the process of conducting HIV/AIDS surveillance in District Pakpattan, Punjab — a project funded by the Canada-Pakistan HIV/AIDS surveillance project. Sughra Shafi Medical Complex has treated some 1.5 million patients, focusing on maternal and child health, tuberculosis and epidemiology (Goals 4, 5 and 6).

#### 12. Salesian Missions

## 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 changes.

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

The organization is a member of a number of non-governmental organizations, including the NGO Committee for Social Development and its subcommittees on the eradication of poverty, HIV/AIDS, migration and financing for development. The organization is also on the planning committee of the Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, and has served as Chair of the Conference's Nominations Subcommittee.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization has participated in the following meetings and sessions:

- Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 2007-2010)
- United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (New York, 2007-2010)
- Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on HIV/AIDS (2008 to 2010)
- Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Migration (2007 to 2011)
- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (New York, 2007 to 2010)

The organization has sponsored and/or organized the following side events:

- "Education and work: a collaborative partnership" (2008)
- "Protecting the human rights of migrants and their families" for the Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, held in Paris in 2008
- "HIV/AIDS and social exclusion: challenges for religious leaders" and "Social integration of peoples on the move" (2009)
- "Love matters: HIV/AIDS education of boys and girls in South Africa" and "Men and women, boys and girls in Dialogue" (2009)
- Side event at the sixty-third Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, held in Melbourne, Australia, in 2010
- Side event at the fifty-fourth Commission on the Status of Women on the theme "Gaps in the Beijing Platform: the children of migrants" (2010)

• Side event on the theme "Migration: a response to violence" at the sixty-third Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, held in Melbourne in 2010

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

- A Salesian Cardinal addressed the high-level event on the Millennium Development Goals during the meeting of the General Assembly in New York on 25 September 2008.
- A representative from Shelter Don Bosco in Mumbai, India, gave a report on the state of the drugs problem and work in progress in the South Asia region to the fifty-first session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna from 10 to 14 March 2008. Prior to the session, Shelter Don Bosco was asked to serve as a regional lead organization to choose and coordinate more than 100 non-governmental organizations invited to the session.

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

#### **Eradicate poverty**

- Don Bosco Tech Network seeks to provide training and job placement for 2 million young people in India by 2020
- The Salesian Industrial School in Copiago, Chile, committed to collaborating in the technical education of students and the production of jobs
- Don Bosco Home in Chiang Mai, Thailand, serves as a training centre for teenage boys from hill tribes and ethnic groups in Thailand
- Vocational training programmes at Bosco Children Centre in Addis Ababa involve 90 agricultural schools, which train youth in modern farming technology to improve crop yields, achieve food security and generate income

## **Primary education**

- Don Bosco Literacy School in Andaung Cheng, Cambodia, serves as a centre for the poorest children in the country
- Don Bosco Travelling Bus School helps nomadic children in Kurnool, India
- Courses for the re-qualification and education of teachers and literacy programmes for children were begun in Angola
- In 2008, the first of a projected ten rural schools was opened near Tonj in Southern Sudan
- In Ljubljana, a "Happy Minibus" seeks out youngsters not attending schools to provide an education for them
- Literacy programmes serve the people of Condoto, Chocó, Colombia

## **Empowerment of women**

• In 2010, Don Bosco Technical School in Honiara began a course in carpentry for girls

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- The Woman Development Project in Zway, Ethiopia, has opened an embroidery cooperative
- In Pune, India, the organization offers microfinancing initiatives and skillstraining groups

#### Reduce maternal mortality ratio

The Yolia programme in Mexico City provides education and shelter for girls who have lived on the streets. Pre- and post-natal services are available.

#### **Combat HIV/AIDS**

Programmes exist in Angola, Mozambique, and French-speaking western Africa as well as in Brazil, India, Peru and Sri Lanka.

#### **Environmental sustainability**

- The organization provides clean water for the indigenous communities of the Xavantes and the Bororos in Brazil
- In Costa Rica, Salesian students at Don Bosco Technical Institute won a national prize for their project on transforming chicken fat and lecithin into a bio-combustible material to replace diesel fuel
- The Salesian ACRE Project in Ireland trains young people with special educational needs in horticulture and gardening

#### 13. Socialist International Women

#### Special, 1991

#### Introduction

Socialist International Women is an international organization of the women's organizations of the socialist, social democratic and labour parties affiliated with Socialist International. There are currently 149 member organizations in all parts of the world.

## Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and objectives of the organization are to strengthen relations between its member organizations; to promote action programmes to overcome any discrimination in society, including any inequality between men and women and to work for human rights in general; to promote development and peace; to promote a knowledge and understanding among women of the aims and tasks of democratic socialism; and to extend relations between its members and other socialist-oriented women's groups not in membership that desire cooperation.

#### Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

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

- The organization has adopted several resolutions calling for a fifth United Nations World Conference on Women.
- In March 2007, the organization held a conference on the gender dimensions of international migration in cooperation with the International Organization of Migration. The organization works very hard to persuade member states to ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

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

- The organization attended the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. On each occasion it organized a parallel event in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations.
- The organization attended the ninety-sixth and ninety-eighth sessions of the International Labour Conference in Geneva.
- The organization attended the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna.

## **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

- The organization cooperated with the Department for Information by attending the sixty-first Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, held in Paris in September 2008
- Socialist International Women also attended the sixty-second Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, held in Mexico City in September 2009
- The organization cooperated with the Human Rights Council in Geneva by attending its fourth, tenth and eleventh sessions
- In October 2007, Socialist International Women organized a conference for Israeli and Palestinian women in Tel Aviv, Israel, in support of Security Council resolution 1325 (1999) on women, peace and security

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

- In March 2009 the organization held a seminar in Buenos Aires on the theme "Towards a gender-balanced democracy" in support of Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals (promote gender equality and empower women).
- In June 2010 the organization held a conference in Andorra on the theme "Policies on gender equality the driving force for social and economic development", again in support of Goal 3. Promoting gender equality is the main goal of Socialist International Women.
- With regard to Goal 6 the organization issued a statement on the occasion of the XVIII International AIDS Conference (Vienna, 18 to 23 July 2010) calling

on governments, health services and non-governmental organizations to give high priority to the following demands concerning women and HIV/AIDS: accessible reproductive health services for women and girls; access to testing, treatment, counselling, care and support; and access to methods of prevention such as male and female condoms.

## 14. Special Olympics International

## Special, 1991

#### Introduction

There have been no changes.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

There have been no changes.

#### Significant changes in the organization

The significant increase in athlete participation, namely from the developing world, has had a strong influence and impact on the organization's vision. This impact has helped Special Olympics channel additional investment, technical assistance and partnership development across the developing world through the Special Olympics Regional Office and National Program infrastructure.

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

Through the Special Olympics Healthy Athletes programme, over 1 million athlete health screenings have been provided free of charge for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. These screenings include the clinical disciplines of vision, dentistry, hearing, physical therapy, nutrition, sports medicine, podiatric medicine and health education. Health interventions are also provided free of charge to athletes from more than 110 countries, including free prescription eyeglasses, customized hearing aids, customized protective sports goggles, protective mouth guards and a variety of diagnostic screenings such as bone density, cardiac screenings and more. This programme's ongoing efforts directly support the Millennium Development Goals related to child health and is especially important for a population as marginalized as those with intellectual disabilities.

Over 1.2 million participating athletes of the Special Olympics are female, offering girls and women the opportunity to not only participate in sport but, through the Sport for Development model, offering girls and women access to free health screenings, family support networks, early childhood development activities, health education, leadership development skills and more.

Special Olympics International has helped to create culturally sensitive disability education for millions of children without intellectual disabilities, to foster increased understanding regarding the nature of intellectual disability, the importance of acceptance of differences, the social benefits of inclusive communities and the excitement of working with the Special Olympics movement. This academic curriculum for kindergarten through grade 12, entitled "Get into it" continues to be offered in a variety of regions and countries, emphasizing the

importance of inclusive school environments for children with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics International made great strides in promoting Goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals. Through the official Special Olympics partnership platform, the organization has engaged governments, industry, philanthropy, sports and civil society in advocating for improved policies and a better future for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

Special Olympics at all levels took an active role in advocating for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This advocacy has come with the dissemination of information that demonstrates the support structures that the Special Olympics movement has put into place to contribute to the overall achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Special Olympics International has been honoured to participate in official United Nations activities throughout the reporting period, including:

- Executive participation in the twentieth anniversary celebration of the Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Executive participation and contribution to the UNICEF publication State of the World's Children 2009: Maternal and Newborn Health
- Official presentations at the UNICEF Middle East and North Africa Regional Office (MENARO) and Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States Regional Management Team meetings
- Keynote presentation at the UNICEF MENARO communications workshop

## **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

Special Olympics International cooperated with a number of United Nations bodies, including UNICEF, UNDP, the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, the World Food Programme and a myriad of national and regional United Nations offices throughout the world.

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

Special Olympics made significant contributions to the work of the United Nations, particularly related to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (see "Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations" above).

## 15. Syriac Universal Alliance

## Special, 1999

#### Introduction

There have been no changes.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

There have been no changes.

#### Significant changes in the organization

The organization held elections in late 2008 which resulted in a new President, Vice-President and other individuals being elected into key roles.

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

#### 2007

In 2007 the organization arranged a conference in the European Parliament regarding the issue of the genocide of Syriac Aramean people.

#### 2008

- February: the organization presented a lecture in Sodertalje, Sweden
- August to October: a Human Rights Adviser worked on the Turkey property rights issue relating to the Saint Gabriel Monastery (one of the oldest monasteries in the world)
- 11 and 12 October: Election of Johny Messo to the Presidency of the organization and Daniel Gabriel to the Human Rights and United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Director position
- December to January: the President and Michel Sawma travelled to the United States of America and Canada to meet Syriac people and discuss the future position of the organization at the United Nations and European Union

## 2009

In April, the President and the Human Rights Adviser travelled to the south of Turkey to visit Aramean (Syriac) villages and discuss property rights issues. They also presented a lecture at Diyarbakir University to Turkish students about the organization and Syriacs.

#### 2010

- May to November: the organization participated in several lectures and met Aramean people in Vienna and Belgium (May); Goteborg, Sweden (August); New Jersey, Brussels, Sweden and Germany (conferences from June to October); and Switzerland (November)
- 25 October: the organization participated in a European Parliament public hearing on human rights in Turkey in view of the progress report of the European Commission

- 15 to 17 November: the President spoke at the European Parliament conference on religious freedom held in Brussels
- December: the organization attended a meeting in Washington, D.C., with the United States Committee for Refugees and Immigrants regarding religious freedom in Iraq for Syriacs.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

#### 2007

- 27 and 28 November: Fiftieth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Vienna
- 29 and 30 November: Sixteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Vienna
- 10 to 14 December: Fortieth session of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law

#### 2008 to 2009

May 2008 and May 2009: seventh and eighth sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, New York.

#### 2009

- 13 November: the organization spoke at the second session of the Forum on Minority Issues, Geneva
- November: the organization spoke at a private session at the United Nations regarding Syriac Aramean issues, including culture, human rights and diaspora issues, New York
- December: the organization participated as observers during the meetings of the main policymaking organs of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- 10 December: the organization celebrated Human Rights Day at the United Nations in New York, attending the sessions and a special event on "race, poverty and power", with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

#### 2010

- 8 March: the organization attended International Women's Day at the United Nations, New York
- March: Syriac Universal Alliance attended the thirteenth session of the Human Rights Council and delivered one written and two oral statements at the session, Geneva
- May: the Alliance attended the universal periodic review consideration of Turkey, Geneva
- 19 to 30 April: the organization delivered a speech at the ninth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and submitted interventions for relevant agenda items, New York

- 16 July: the organization spoke at the third session of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Geneva
- September: the Alliance attended the fifteenth session of Human Rights Council and delivered two oral statements at the session, Geneva
- 18 October: the organization attended the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Vienna

## **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The Alliance has worked with the Asia Caucus and Youth Caucus at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York. That cooperation, however, was limited and the organization is now seeking other methods to get the its voice heard at the Forum.

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

No initiatives have been taken.

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