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1. Human Rights Council of Australia

Special, 1999

Introduction

The Human Rights Council of Australia is an organization of people committed to promoting universal human rights for all without discrimination, in Australia, the region and the world.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Human Rights Council of Australia promotes and realizes human rights for all without distinction; monitors actions by Governments and calls for observance of international human rights obligations; contributes to human rights in the Asian-Pacific region and in the world; and improves Australia's human rights policies and Australia's human rights performance.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization exists to promote the development and implementation of international human rights law at all levels. It encourages accession to human rights treaties, participates in reporting and monitoring processes and undertakes public education on human rights. It advocates for compliance with international human rights law by States and non-state actors.

Following the election of a new Government in Australia in 2007, the organization launched and led a civil society campaign for Australian accession to the treaties that it had not accepted. The campaign has resulted in Australia's signature and/or ratification of several treaties since 2007 and its change of position in terms of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Human Rights Council of Australia was also a leader of a civil society campaign to encourage the Government of Australia to enact new legislation for the better protection of human rights. While this campaign has not yet achieved its principal objective, the enactment of a federal Bill of Rights, it has had notable success in the Government's adoption of a national human rights framework and the establishment of a parliamentary human rights committee for the first time.

All the organization's work is based on and promotes the international human rights legal regime developed through the United Nations.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization's participation in meetings of the United Nations has focused on the Human Rights Council in Geneva. It has been represented at virtually all regular sessions and many special sessions of the Human Rights Council since its establishment in 2006. On several occasions, the organization has been represented by its most senior officers. Generally, however, representation has been at a more junior level. The organization has made statements on its own behalf at sessions of the Human Rights Council on many occasions and has endorsed statements by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on many other occasions. It has also participated in meetings of treaty bodies and of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and in other United Nations meetings.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Human Rights Council of Australia principally cooperates with United Nations human rights bodies, particularly with the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review and special procedures, and the human rights treaty monitoring bodies. Between 2007 and 2010, in addition to participating in United Nations human rights meetings, it joined other Australian non-governmental organizations in submitting information to the universal periodic review, the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the context of the examination of Australia's reports.

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

The Human Rights Council of Australia does not have a specific focus on the Millennium Development Goals but much of its work concerns the Goals because they are fundamentally human rights related. It has permanent programmes relating to the rights of indigenous peoples and of asylum seekers, and its work in these areas has included policy development, education and advocacy, with particular relevance to Goals 1 to 5. Education and health have been of priority concern to the organization for these groups and more generally. The organization is undertaking an audit of Australian federal health legislation to assess its consistency with international human rights standards.

The Human Rights Council of Australia has had a long-standing project examining the human rights-based approach to development. During the reporting period this has been focused on human rights and aid and on human rights and business.

Additional information

The Human Rights Council of Australia coordinated a joint programme with many Australian non-governmental organizations in relation to the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2008. The programme included both advocacy for human rights implementation and human rights education.

2. Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

Special, 1999

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development contributed by organizing:

(a) Orientation workshops supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for assembly (*panchayati raj* members on polio eradication) (December 2009, India);

(b) Regional training programmes, together with the Asian Forum on Parliamentarians on Population and Development, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), for Parliament staff and parliamentarian groups on developing culturally sensitive programmes (July 2008, Thailand);

(c) Consultations with legislators from the central/eastern States of India on health sector advocacy initiatives in respect of the National Rural Health Mission approach, with support from UNFPA and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (January 2008, India);

(d) Workshops on population-related issues, with a focus on the National Rural Health Mission, with the support of UNFPA and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (February and March 2008, India);

(e) A meeting of members of Parliament on National Rural Health Mission issues, with the support of UNFPA and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (March 2008, India);

(f) Consultations with legislators from the north-western States of India, with support from UNFPA and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (April 2008, India);

(g) Consultations with legislators from the north-eastern States of India, with support from UNFPA and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (May and December 2008, India);

(h) A conference of members of the Bihar Legislative Assembly on the National Rural Health Mission, with support from UNFPA and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (June 2008, India).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development cooperated by:

(a) Organizing a meeting with parliamentarians on polio/child health, in collaboration with UNICEF (February 2009, India);

(b) Organizing a brainstorming meeting on social issues, with the support of UNICEF (August 2010, India);

(c) Organizing a regional workshop to review advocacy and technology for working with parliamentarians, with support from UNFPA (March 2008, Indonesia).

The organization was also involved with or attended the following:

(a) Group of Eight conference on population and sustainable development for international parliamentarians, organized by the Japan Parliamentarians Federation for Population and UNFPA (July 2008, Japan);

(b) Ninth General Assembly of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development on addressing climate change and food security and linking population as a factor, organized by UNFPA and the National Assembly of Viet Nam (December 2008, Viet Nam);

(c) International Conference on Gender-Based Violence and Sexual and Reproductive Health, organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNFPA and the World Health Organization (WHO) (February 2009, India);

(d) Twenty-fifth Asian Parliamentarians Meeting on Population and Development, organized by the Asian Population and Development Association and UNDP (May 2009, Indonesia);

(e) Parliamentarians capacity-building project on accountability and aid implementation for population and development issues, organized by the Asian Population and Development Association and UNFPA (July 2009 and September 2010, Japan);

(f) Inter-country parliamentarians meeting on maternal health, organized by the Asian Population and Development Association and UNFPA (August 2009, Indonesia);

(g) International parliamentarians conference on implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, organized by UNFPA (October 2009, Ethiopia);

(h) Asia Pacific women ministers and parliamentarians conference on parliamentarians' efforts to enhance the status of women, elimination of violence against women and engagement of male parliamentarians in gender issues, organized by the Asian Population and Development Association and UNFPA (November 2009, Malaysia);

(i) Inter-country medical parliamentarians workshop on emerging health issues, organized by WHO, UNFPA and the International Medical Parliamentarians Organization (December 2009, Thailand);

(j) Asia Pacific regional session on indigenous issues, climate change and rural poverty, organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (March 2010, Philippines);

(k) Twenty-sixth Asian parliamentarians meeting on population and adoption to climate change, organized by the Vietnamese Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, UNFPA and the International Planned Parenthood Federation (April 2010, Viet Nam).

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

By attending the following meetings/conferences/workshops, the organization enhanced its knowledge and skills in respect of various Millennium Development Goals: South Asian parliamentarians meeting on the Goals, focusing on maternal mortality in South Asia; the sixth conference of women parliamentarians and ministers on financing the Goals, with a focus on health and gender; and a regional forum on hunger, focusing on progress towards reducing hunger compared with the target of the Goal.

3. International Association against Torture

Special, 1987

Introduction

The goal of the International Association against Torture is to demonstrate total opposition to torture; to increase public awareness of the different forms which torture may assume, particularly in relation to communities of colour; and to disseminate information regarding research and findings by means of educational seminars, lectures, publications and educational films.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2008, the organization submitted a report to a meeting of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, and conducted a training session in New York on implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. In 2009, the organization was part of a delegation of international and national NGOs that conducted an emergency fact-finding mission to investigate the human rights crisis in Honduras following the coup d'état.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated orally in relation to agenda items on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions, and racism and racial discrimination at the fourth session of the Human Rights Council, in 2007. It also participated in the sixth session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, in 2007, and contributed to the outcome document, in particular on the issue of racial profiling in the criminal justice system of the United States of America (see A/HRC/4/39).

In 2008, the organization participated in the seventh session of the Human Rights Council and attended the seventh session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. It lobbied for an expanded budget so that the Working Group could conduct meetings on the African diaspora. It also attended the seventy-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to monitor the review of the report of the United States of America. In 2009, the organization made an oral intervention at the tenth session of the Human Rights Council. At the Council's twelfth session, it lobbied for the adoption of resolutions on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and on Honduras (see A/HRC/12/50).

The organization delivered a statement at the Durban Review Conference held in 2009 and organized a side event with another NGO at the Palais des Nations to show the documentary entitled *Durban 400*, on the role played by NGOs lobbying Member States to develop the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. In 2010, the organization made a statement at the ninth session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and in 2011 it elaborated recommendations for the Group's report on the International Year for People of African Descent.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The International Association against Torture provided information to the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The organization co-sponsored a public hearing on racism and racial discrimination for the Special Rapporteur at the Schomburg Centre for Research in Black Culture in 2008. Thirty-seven presenters, representing national, and local grass-roots organizations and individual victims of racism and racial discrimination, testified and submitted documentation.

In 2010, the organization worked with the New York office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to publicize and sponsor programmes to celebrate the 2011 International Year for People of African Descent.

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

Goal 6. Working with a sister NGO, the organization collected and delivered medical supplies for humanitarian distribution in Zimbabwe (2006-2007).

Goal 7. The organization was a founding member of a New York City coalition of community organizations which, following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, raised money and made two trips to the country to deliver 12,000 gallons of water.

Additional information

The participation of the organization at international meetings in Geneva is limited because it is entirely staffed and operated by volunteers.

4. International Black Women for Wages for Housework

Special, 1999

Introduction

In 2007, International Black Women for Wages for Housework began to coordinate an event entitled “Women of color in the global women’s strike”, which is part of the Global Women’s Strike network based in 17 countries.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization gathered and publicized information on women’s unwaged and low-waged work at all levels of the United Nations system, focused on the implementation and implications at the national and community levels of United Nations decisions on measuring and valuing unwaged work, including policies on poverty and income support for mothers and others.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization sent representatives to meetings of the General Assembly held in 2007 and to the 2009 World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (Durban Review Conference). Funding restrictions curtailed participation in sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization publicized UNDP statistics regarding the distribution of work, income and wealth, as a result of decisions made at the United Nations World Conferences on Women (1985 and 1995), distributed information of the Commission on the Status of Women and from the Non-Governmental Organizations Branch of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to local women’s organizations and individual women, and covered the United Nations Climate Change Conferences held in Copenhagen in 2009 and in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010.

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

Goals 1 and 4. The organization sponsored a United States speaking tour of a member from Guyana on self-help efforts addressing racism, poverty, violence and development (2007). It also sponsored community dialogues in the United States (Los Angeles, Philadelphia, San Francisco) regarding the impact on women's survival of budget cuts, child welfare policies, poverty, war and occupation (2009-2010). In Guyana, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States, it helped to organize, with Global Women's Strike, the first Mothers March on International Women's Day (2010), highlighting the heavy burden carried by unwaged and low-waged mothers.

Goal 2. In Guyana, the organization continued afterschool and holiday literacy classes for children from poor families (2007-2010). In Los Angeles (2009-2010) and Philadelphia (2007-2010), it organized monthly children's activities for children from low-income families.

Goal 3. In Guyana, the organization worked to improve implementation of the Domestic Violence Act to reduce violence against women, especially in interior communities where the majority of indigenous peoples live (2007). In addition, the organization conducted grass-roots training for women in popular education skills (street theatre, making collages, photographs) and how to use them to confront conditions holding women back, especially poverty and violence (2007-2010). The organization pressed for implementation of article 88 of the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which recognizes the United Nations decision valuing unwaged work (2008) and addressed wages for caring work at three international meetings, held in Mexico and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (2008). It worked with Nawa Chhattisgarh Mahila (India) on efforts against rape, bonded labour, untouchability and other issues (2009). It helped to run and staff community-based women's centres in Guyana, the United Kingdom and the United States. In London, it helped to coordinate a two-week international gathering on the struggle against poverty, war and occupation, with women from India, Iraq, Ireland, Palestine, Peru, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Turkey and the United Republic of Tanzania (2009). In the United States, it distributed information on the disproportionate number of women of colour in prisons and the impact on families. It also produced and distributed a brochure on the right to a fair hearing in welfare cases.

Goal 5. The organization exposed the disproportionate impact of the foster care system on children of colour from poor families in the United States (2007-2010). It consulted on the production of a video documenting the experiences of mothers facing the child welfare system (2010). In Philadelphia and San Francisco, the organization organized access to holistic care practitioners (2007-2010).

Goal 7. The organization took part in events supporting Bhopal survivors (2007-2008) and circulated information highlighting the plight of the Haitian people, including the impact of environmental devastation.

5. International Commission on Distance Education

Special, 2003

Introduction

The International Commission on Distance Education develops research and new methodologies for the improvement of distance education at all academic levels and in all international spheres; promotes participation in educational forums for the betterment of distance learning quality; and conducts research on new online and distance learning methods. It supports the development of curricula on human rights and courses on the United Nations system. It promotes science and education through the application of the new technologies and efforts to promote literacy for all, with full respect for the social and cultural values of each community and the national aspirations of each country. The organization stimulates interdisciplinary educational programmes through the adoption of appropriate strategies, methods and materials and identifies indicators for ongoing professional development, effective communication and support for non-formal experiential education programmes. It has developed a network of universities, colleges, institutes, faculties and other associated centres to facilitate and share innovations in education and to help to develop national systems of education.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the efforts of many adult learning documentation and information centres in the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Spain. It did not participate in the work of the Economic and Social Council, in major conferences or other United Nations meetings during the reporting period because it focused its activities on the development and implementation of distance learning programmes, working with local organizations in Spain as well as in Latin America.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization cooperated on a number of events with UNESCO, such as the 2009 World Conference on Higher Education, on the theme “The new dynamics of higher education and research for societal change and development”; and the 2009 World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development: Moving into the Second Half of the UN Decade.

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

The organization contributed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Europe and South America. In respect of Goal 2, the organization supported distance learning for 1,500 students in the areas of La Rioja and Santo Tomé, Argentina. In respect of Goal 8, the organization, in cooperation with the private sector, made the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications technologies, available to the students of health courses. The organization worked jointly with the Universidad Alcala de Henares in Madrid in 2008 to promote research, development and the betterment of distance education techniques in Europe and South America. The organization also continued to promote the United Nations Literacy Decade: Education for All (2003-2012)

campaign, the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence campaign for the children of the world (2001-2010) and the Millennium Campaign: Voices Against Poverty — 2015, with direct links from its website (<http://www.intcode.org>). The organization took part in UNESCO regional conferences in support of global literacy and participated in a UNESCO campaign on addressing literacy challenges in Europe.

6. International Council on Human Rights Policy

Special, 2003

Introduction

The International Council on Human Rights Policy aims to strengthen human rights advocacy by producing applied policy research through a multidisciplinary and international approach, characterized by an ability to convene, as equals, actors with differing viewpoints and geopolitical orientations. Underlying its global approach is a grounded analysis that captures cross-cutting human rights concerns posing challenges across contexts.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The activities listed are representative but not exhaustive (fuller reports are available from the organization's website, www.ichrp.org) and include:

- (a) Promoting the launch of the 2010 report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on migration and human rights;
- (b) Co-organizing a side event on human rights and climate change in 2010;
- (c) Co-organizing a panel discussion on technology transfer, human rights and climate change at the Climate Change Conference held in Bonn, Germany;
- (d) Convening in 2007, with Amnesty International, an expert meeting on international cooperation and assistance;
- (e) Participating in an international seminar held in Lima on economic, social and cultural rights.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In 2010, the organization held discussions with relevant WHO staff in Geneva regarding research on public health and social control. In 2009, it participated in a WHO working group to examine international and cross-frontier obligations, which resulted in a WHO report addressing ethical issues in pandemic influenza planning. In 2008, the organization organized a workshop together with UNDP on the theme "Integrating human rights and anti-corruption policies: challenges and opportunities". Also in 2008, it participated in a round table on the use of United Nations human rights mechanisms as tools for the protection of persons of concern to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The findings contained in the organization's report entitled "Climate change and human rights: a rough guide", were discussed by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at a 2008 Global Humanitarian Forum panel debate on the theme "Climate justice in a shared global ecosystem".

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

In 2010, the organization participated in a workshop on non-state justice with UNDP in Bangkok as well as in a discussion on economic policy and human rights, held with a senior representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Bank and UNICEF. In 2009, the organization was asked to speak to the World Bank regarding access to justice for the poor. In 2008, representatives from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights participated in the organization's workshops on legal pluralism. In 2007, the organization participated in a seminar organized by the World Federation of United Nations Associations entitled "Human rights for 'We the Peoples': what should we expect from the United Nations Human Rights Council?", in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

7. International Federation of Medical Students Associations

Special, 2003

Introduction

The International Federation of Medical Students Associations is a non-governmental, student-based organization. It emphasizes the enrichment of physicians-in-training around the world, by encouraging students to become involved in issues such as public health, sexual and reproductive rights, medical education, human rights and peace, research and professional development and exchange. It strives to reach out globally and locally by fostering an environment of activism and collaboration and by developing culturally sensitive, physicians-in-training. The organization has 106 member organizations, representing 99 countries, and is the voice of over 1 million medical students.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims at increasing health care for all by carrying out community-based projects, peer-based education and global policymaking. The organization provides a platform for medical students from all over the world to exchange knowledge and ideas on how to provide better health care on local, national and international scales.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization has in the past few years increased its presence in the Americas, in Africa and in Asia. It has increased its areas of focus to include such priority areas as climate change, social determinants of health, non-communicable diseases and global health.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization's standing committees on human rights and peace, on public health, on reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS, and on medical education work to inspire and motivate students in 99 countries to carry out projects in those areas within their communities.

The organization has relationships with several NGOs, for example the World Medical Association, the International Union against Cancer and the World Heart Federation.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Denmark and Mexico. The organization sends a delegation to the World Health Assembly in Geneva every year. It participated in the UNESCO Youth Forum in 2009.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization has relationships with UNESCO and WHO. In particular, it collaborates with WHO departments on patient safety (for example, promoting safe health-care practices) and environmental health (for example, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). It takes an active role in climate change policies, contributing, for example, towards article 6 of the Convention, on education, training and public awareness. It has introduced and is promoting surgical procedures and patient safety guidelines into its exchange programmes, in which approximately 12,000 students participate each year.

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

The organization launched a global week of action on social determinants of health, in which 13 national member organizations from four continents participated by carrying out projects towards building capacities to identify and decrease health inequities.

With its standing committee on reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS, the organization took an active role in reducing the HIV/AIDS pandemic by organizing international, regional and national peer education trainings within its member countries on all continents.

The organization and its member organizations carried out more than 300 community-based projects concerning non-communicable diseases, such as cancer and diabetes mellitus, and promoting healthy lifestyles, including the effects of tobacco, alcohol abuse and healthy diets in disease prevention.

8. International Multiracial Shared Cultural Organization

Special, 1995

Introduction

The International Multiracial Shared Cultural Organization was established to promote and develop major and medium-size shared business cultural exchange programmes. It works towards eradicating poverty and economic apartheid between the North and South, and to promote the establishment of a new international economic order.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization acts as a linking institution in education and business culture for marginalized indigenous and diaspora-affected peoples by developing related projects that serve to assist the business culture in attaining the Millennium Development Goals. The geographical membership of the organization increased to cover 174 million people claiming African ancestry in Brazil and 25,000 people in the Maroon Nation established in Jamaica in 1739. The organization is bridging the link between populations throughout the regions of Africa and South America. It provided assistance to the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan and Zimbabwe, conducting a peace and business co-development mission. It also carried out, where possible, its “dual citizenship project” for people of the African diaspora and the African inheritance project it developed with the United Nations.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Since the organization is based in New York City, its representatives support the United Nations by regularly attending meetings, or events related thereto, that are held at United Nations Headquarters, including the sixtieth annual conference for non-governmental organizations, in 2007, the 2007 Connect Africa summit, and Economic and Social Council panel discussions on eradicating poverty through enterprise.

In 2010, the organization continued to lobby for business and trade links between the people of Darfur and Southern Sudan, the sub-Saharan African region, South America and the Caribbean. It lobbied for a new world economic order and the lifting of political sanctions that have an impact on the movement of people and the trade of resources and food products, such as gum arabic, from Southern Sudan, in order to enable African farmers and Africans in the United States and Europe to trade with family and natural trading partners. The organization sent letters to former United States Presidents, United Nations Member States, foreign private companies and non-governmental organizations addressing the issue of land being taken from, and economic opportunities being denied of, Africans in Africa, Africans of the diaspora and other marginalized peoples, whose needs and human rights as stakeholders and natural trading partners with their historical homelands have been discriminated against. The organization sent letters and documented proof of such illegal actions from foreigners to the United States Department of State, the United States Department of Justice and the African Bureau. In 2010, the Chair of the organization travelled to Zimbabwe at the invitation of the Government and established on behalf of its members a co-development agreement that will link Africans in the diaspora to all areas of Zimbabwe’s business culture and wealth opportunities.

The organization established a website (www.africaninheritance.com) to provide youth with the opportunity to visit their traditional homelands so that they can learn about their culture and history, be motivated to respect who they are and advance their education.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization took part in the NGO global preparatory meeting for the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council on the theme “Financing for climate change: gender equality”, held in April 2010. It also attended the Council forum on the ways NGOs can use social media.

Representatives attended a meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on Harmonization of Fossil Energy and Mineral Resources Terminology in 2009. In 2010, it attended sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the forty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization remains an affiliate in good standing with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). Its representatives attend meetings and closely follow the work of UNIDO. The organization intends to request help from UNIDO to develop a project in Jamaica to assist the Maroon Nation peoples.

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

IMSCO submitted a major motion picture *Man in the Mirror*, which stars Martin Sheen, Academy Award nominee Michael Dunn and Johnny Brown and was released in 2008, to aid in promoting the Millennium Development Goals. The organization gave the United Nations credits in the film and screened the film trailer at United Nations Headquarters during the Council’s annual ministerial review that same year. The representatives attended sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2008 and supported and signed the “UN Watch” petition against the Islamic Republic of Iran on torture and violence against women. The organization also sent letters to all African leaders requesting immediate cooperation in order to assist the people of the African diaspora to receive dual citizenship as an effective and humane way to assist the United Nations in achieving the Goals by 2015.

9. International Muslim Women’s Union**Special, 1999****Introduction**

The International Muslim Women’s Union is headquartered in Khartoum. It has branches in Albania, Egypt, Kenya, the Niger, Pakistan, South Africa, the United Kingdom and Yemen.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Aims and purposes include:

- (a) Directing and guiding Muslim women, and through the organization, the women of the world, to work together to achieve progress in all aspects of life, inspired by Islamic values and teachings;
- (b) Disseminating awareness of Islamic values and principles among Muslim women and guiding them to develop their Islamic identity;

- (c) Assisting women to overcome injustices and emancipating them from degrading practices incompatible with Islamic values and human dignity;
- (d) Strengthening the bonds of cooperation, benevolence and compassion among women worldwide;
- (e) Educating and empowering Muslim women to achieve their rights and assume their Islamic role in the societies;
- (f) Striving for the dominance of justice, equality, upright conduct and rejection of all forms of discrimination and for the promotion of cultural and religious dialogues between nations;
- (g) Expressing Muslim women's viewpoints in all issues of concern.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization hosted/participated in the following events at its headquarters:

- (a) 2007 preparatory committee meeting for International Women's Day, in the context of coordination and collaboration between the Government and civil society organizations;
- (b) 2007 workshop on participation of organizations in the ninth human rights course; the organization was selected to be a member of a national group for human rights;
- (c) 2008 International Women's Day activities, attending the Arab Family Celebration on the theme "Towards a coherent family";
- (d) 2008 National Day for Women;
- (e) 2008 Women Organizations' Forum on the theme "Neo-threats: peace and humanitarian aid";
- (f) 2008 thematic session organized by the Community Research and Studies Center in preparation for the World Conference against Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;
- (g) 2009 workshop on the theme "Young women as agents for peace", as part of the Gender Unit of the Center for Women Research and Family Studies, United Nations Mission in the Sudan.

The organization also organized monthly forums in 2008 to discuss and evaluate international issues and identify adequate Islamic approaches to them. It also organized a symposium in 2008 on poverty reduction, in conjunction with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the following:

- (a) Seminar on the role of non-governmental organizations in strengthening human rights (Khartoum, 2008);

(b) Activities of the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women at United Nations Headquarters in 2008;

(c) Seminar on the role of civil society organizations for effective women political participation (General Directorate of Women and Family Affairs, UNDP, Khartoum, 2009);

(d) 2009 consultative meeting convened by the Humanitarian Aid Commission on strengthening partnership among United Nations agencies and national organizations regarding voluntary and humanitarian activities;

(e) Sixth African Development Forum, organized by the Economic Commission for Africa in collaboration with the African Union and the African Development Bank (Addis Ababa, 2009);

(f) Workshops and meetings for NGOs in consultative status with the Council (Khartoum, 2010) and a workshop on women, peace and security in respect of Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization participated in a 2009 workshop held in Khartoum on reservations according to international law, in particular in respect of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, organized by the Advisory Council for Human Rights.

10. International Network for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

Special, 2007

Introduction

The International Network for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises is a non-profit association, open to international membership. It aims at fostering transnational cooperation and public and private partnership among economic players and intermediaries worldwide to help bridge the innovation and knowledge gap for small and medium-sized enterprises. Since access to innovation is a key factor for enterprises to be competitive, the organization acts to indirectly stimulate innovation processes and competitiveness among small and medium-sized enterprises by promoting and strengthening the collaboration and the international outreach of business support intermediaries and their networks.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to create a permanent forum for promoting an open and strengthened multilateral dialogue among different stakeholders (policymakers and intermediaries) engaged in making innovation happen in small and medium-sized enterprises, turning potential competitors into new partners. In particular importance is given to the development of North-South interactions and cooperation across different geographical regions.

Its also serves to promote and disseminate information and opportunities for cross-border collaboration, knowledge exchange and mutual learning on focused thematic areas relevant to small and medium-sized enterprises.

The organization acts as a problem solver, incubator of new project ideas and facilitator for its member organizations. It serves as an information hub, a catalyst, an accelerator and a broker for creating a stable collaboration platform among innovation players on an international scale in order to better address the problems and challenges facing small and medium-sized enterprises emerging from the globalization process.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

In December 2010, the secretariat of the organization jointly organized an international training programme with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) on the theme “Financing your business with intellectual property”.

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

The organization is a partner of the UNIDO Exchange, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization’s virtual marketplace for investment, environment and technology opportunities.

11. International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association

Special, 1975

Introduction

International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association is a global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization’s vision is of an oil and gas industry that successfully improves its operations and products to meet society’s expectations for environmental and social performance.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Established in 1974 to act as an oil and gas industry interface with UNEP, the organization has worked to promote good practices and knowledge-sharing among oil and gas companies on environmental and social issues. Details of the activities undertaken to advance the agenda of the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations are outlined below.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Participation has included the organization of side events, technical input on specific agenda items and partnerships. From 2007 to 2010, the organization’s representatives attended the following:

- (a) Sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held from 2007 to 2010;
- (b) Economic Commission for Europe round table on fuel quality (2008 and 2010);

- (c) Meetings of the Working Party on Pollution and Energy, World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations (2009);
- (d) Meetings of the oil pollution preparedness, response and cooperation technical group of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) (2008);
- (e) 57th to 59th meetings of the Marine Environment Protection Committee of IMO (2008 and 2009);
- (f) Eighth meeting of IMO Technical Group (2008);
- (g) Meetings of the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (2007-2009);
- (h) Intergovernmental preparatory meeting for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2007 and 2008);
- (i) United Nations Global Compact Leaders Summit (2010).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Cooperation by the organization during the reporting period included:

- (a) Participating in a side event of the Convention on Biological Diversity, on emissions reductions from carbon capture and storage projects;
- (b) Participating with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change in the preparation of its synthesis report by contributing a technical paper on water, 2007;
- (c) Conducting workshops and global exercises together with IMO in order to continue to develop global preparedness regarding oil spills;
- (d) Participating at side events of the fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (e) Working with UNEP to adopt an initiative aimed at nine countries using leaded gasoline;
- (f) Conducting a regional workshop in Tunisia on phasing out leaded gasoline.

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

The Goals cannot be met without the continued contributions of the oil and gas industry. Energy services enable basic human needs, such as food and shelter, to be met and contribute to social development by improving education and public health. Access to affordable and reliable energy services is fundamental to reducing poverty and improving health. A number of the organization's activities in health, education, capacity-building, environmental and social stewardships and partnerships support the Goals.

12. International Rescue Committee

Special, 1999

Introduction

The International Rescue Committee is an international humanitarian aid organization that serves refugees and communities affected by violent conflict, political oppression and disasters. It was founded in 1933 with a commitment to freedom, human dignity and self-reliance. It expresses this commitment through its efforts in emergency relief, protection of human rights, post-conflict development, resettlement assistance and advocacy.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization is a leader in humanitarian action. It responds quickly in emerging crises by bringing sustained support to regions torn apart by violence and deprivation. It also provides a new start in the United States for resettled refugees and advocates for global policy change on behalf of the displaced and uprooted.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The work of the organization is closely aligned with the Charter of the United Nations and the objectives and priorities of the United Nations. Around the world, the International Rescue Committee interacts with the many domains of the United Nations system. It works especially closely with specialized agencies, major United Nations funds and countless programmes in humanitarian settings. It is committed to working closely with United Nations Member States and is especially engaged with the Security Council. It participates in major United Nations conferences, consultations, direct advocacy meetings and other forums.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization continues to participate in a number of United Nations consultation processes, conferences, meetings and panels where civil society and the United Nations intersect, including the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies. The organization had direct meetings with the Emergency Relief Coordinator, John Holmes, and his successor, Valerie Amos, on a number of occasions during the reporting period.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization participates in meetings of the Non-Governmental Organizations Working Group on the Security Council and meets regularly with ambassadors serving on the Council and with senior United Nations officials. Currently, the organization's Director of Humanitarian Affairs is the Vice-Chair of this influential NGO forum. On numerous occasions, the organization held meetings with representatives of the United Nations Secretariat, specialized agencies and Member States both in New York and Geneva in an effort to improve the overall coordination of humanitarian responses to specific crises.

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

On 22 October 2010, in recognition of United Nations Day, the organization published a blog on its website entitled, “Now, more than ever, we need the United Nations” (see <http://www.theirc.org/blog/contributor/gerald-martone>).

Additional information

Since the creation in 2005 of a full-time advocacy position for United Nations affairs (Director of Humanitarian Affairs and United Nations Liaison) the organization’s increasing convergence and compatibility with the work of the United Nations has grown. Its work on humanitarian issues and topics of global peace and security has become a foundation of its advocacy activities.

13. International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade

Special, 2003

Introduction

The International Union for Land Value Taxation and Free Trade was established in 1926. Now a global NGO, it operates independently of any government funding. This allows it to remain totally impartial and objective. The organization seeks to engage in activities that strategically support its objectives.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The objectives of the organization are to stimulate in all countries and for all peoples a public opinion favourable to permanent peace and prosperity, through the progressive removal of the basic economic causes of poverty and war (as described in the writings of Henry George). The organization specifically favours the raising of public revenues by the public collection of the rental value of land and the abolition of taxes or tariffs of any sort that interfere with the free production and exchange of wealth.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The major contribution of the organization to United Nations-related projects is its worldwide online course and training programme on land rights and land value capture. This is a key policy of the Global Land Tool Network of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The organization currently has nearly 600 individuals enrolled from 80 countries, mostly from Africa. Those completing the course are eligible to do policy research for implementation projects.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization’s representatives attend United Nations meetings about once a month.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The main cooperation has been with UN-Habitat.

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

The online land value capture course is one of the pro-poor land tools identified by the Global Land Tool Network. These tools facilitate the attainment of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals through improved land tenure, management and public finance for poverty alleviation. It is crucial that concrete tools related to land and secure tenure be developed and provided to community leaders and government officials concerned about land and fair and efficient public finance policy.

14. Inter-Press Service International Association

General, 1991

Introduction

The historic mission of the Inter-Press Service International Association is to give a voice to the voiceless by acting as a communications channel that supports the voices and concerns of the poorest and creates a climate of understanding, accountability and participation around development, promoting a new international information order between the South and the North.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization and the Inter-Press Service International News Agency provided regular independent coverage of the role and activities of the United Nations, which reached the media, civil society and the international community. The organization worked with many United Nations agencies and bodies at the international and regional levels to strengthen communications, media training and networking around conferences and events.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Inter-Press Service International Organization regularly covered the sessions and work of the Economic and Social Council and provided extensive reporting on the General Assembly and other meetings and conferences. It produced conference editions of its newspaper *TerraViva* for the following events and processes:

- (a) Eighth International Congress on AIDS, in Asia and the Pacific (Sri Lanka, August 2007);
- (b) Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, Qatar (29 November-2 December 2008);
- (c) Ninth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific (Indonesia, 2009);
- (d) United Nations Climate Change Conference (2009 and 2010);
- (e) Fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2010);
- (f) High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (September 2010);

- (g) Tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization implemented information and communications projects with a number of programmes, bodies and specialized agencies, including the following:

- (a) UNFPA, to support the strengthening media training and outreach on such issues as population, gender and reproductive health (2007-2010);
- (b) UNICEF, to support communications about children in Africa and Asia (2009-2010);
- (c) Tierramérica, the most important Latin American communications platform on the environment and sustainable development, supported by UNDP, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank (2007-2010);
- (d) Millennium Campaign in Africa, supporting communications about the Goals (2009-2010);
- (e) IFAD, supporting communications concerning indigenous peoples (2007-2008) and smallholder farmers (2009-2010);
- (f) International Labour Organization (ILO), supporting communications on the informal economy in Asia (2008);
- (g) UNESCO, supporting communications on capacity-building in Africa and in Asia (2009-2010);
- (h) UNDP, supporting a comprehensive communications strategy for Latin America in relation to meeting Goals 1 to 8 (2007-2009). IPS became a UNDP accredited training organization in 2010;
- (i) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of UNDP, and the Government of Brazil, to develop a South and emerging countries initiative on media and communications for development (2009-2010);
- (j) United Nations Development Fund for Women (2007-2009) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) (2010), supporting gender communications initiatives;
- (k) United Nations Democracy Fund, which awarded the organization a grant for communications activities with women politicians and journalists in Africa (2007-2008).

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

The organization identifies reporting on the Goals as one of its key priorities. In addition to the many relevant activities listed above, the organization developed:

- (a) Special news-sites dedicated to the Goals, provided in Dutch, English, French, Italian and Spanish, and to Africa and produced related newsletters in English and Spanish;
- (b) Implemented a wide-ranging communications and media platform about Goal 3 (2009-2010), with support from the Dutch Fund for Gender Equality.

15. Islamic Human Rights Commission

Special, 2007

Introduction

The Islamic Human Rights Commission was set up in 1997. It is an independent, not-for-profit, campaign, research and advocacy organization based in London. Although based in London, it covers issues of human rights and justice globally. It works with different organizations from Muslim and non-Muslim backgrounds to campaign for justice for all peoples regardless of their racial, confessional or political background.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims of the Islamic Human Rights Commission are:

- (a) To champion the rights and duties revealed for human beings;
- (b) To promote a new social and international order, based on truth, justice, righteousness and generosity, rather than selfish interest;
- (c) To demand virtue and oppose wrongdoing in the exercise of power (from whatever base, for example political, judicial, the media, economic, military, personal);
- (d) To gather and publicize information about atrocities, oppression, discrimination and other abuses of divinely granted rights;
- (e) To campaign for redress and to support the victims of such crimes;
- (f) To campaign to bring the perpetrators and their accomplices to justice;
- (g) To cooperate with other groups and individuals where such cooperation is likely to further the achievement of these aims.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Islamic Human Rights Commission provides briefings and reports on promoting respect for human rights, conducts research and organizes conferences. It has attended the Universal Justice Network, where NGOs from across the world join together with the aim of empowering and supporting the development of civil society and human rights NGOs. The organization has sent rapporteurs and a legal team or fact-finding missions to a variety of locations, including Bahrain and Egypt. The Islamic Human Rights Commission attends sessions of the Human Rights Council. It submits special reports, conducts briefings and interacts with a number of United Nations special rapporteurs.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Participation by the organization's representative included:

- (a) Individual oral statements made on 10 and 13 June 2008 at the eighth session of the Human Rights Council, in relation to the universal periodic review (United Kingdom and France);
- (b) Oral intervention on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, made on 23 April 2009 at the Durban Review Conference;
- (c) Oral intervention on 23 March 2009, on the human rights situation in Palestine and the other occupied Arab territories, made at the tenth session of the Human Rights Council;
- (d) Individual oral statements made on 11 June 2009 at the eleventh session of the Human Rights Council, in relation to the universal periodic review (Saudi Arabia and China);
- (e) Oral statement made on 12 June 2009 on the outcome of Nigeria under the universal periodic review;
- (f) Written statement on China submitted on 5 June 2009 in relation to the universal periodic review;
- (g) Individual oral statement made on 21 September 2010 at the fifteenth session of the Human Rights Council, in relation to the universal periodic review (Spain).

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

Goal 3. In 2009, the organization published *For Liberty?: the Impact of the French Ban on the Islamic Headscarf and other Religious Symbols in Schools*. The organization would have been able to contribute more to the implementation of United Nations programmes if not for the following problems which are ongoing: information about international meetings and conferences reaching the organization is very sparse and arrives too late. Also, scarce funds and few representative staff make attendance at international meetings very difficult. Furthermore, the lack of resources and the level of Islamophobia in general and within the human rights arena is a great obstacle for our full participation and engagement.
