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Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

| | <i>Page</i> |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Azerbaijan Women and Development Centre | 2 |
| 2. Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women | 3 |
| 3. European Union of Women | 5 |
| 4. EUROSOLAR Turkey | 6 |
| 5. Global Housing Foundation | 8 |
| 6. Hawa Society for Women | 9 |
| 7. Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development | 11 |
| 8. International Association for Women's Mental Health | 12 |
| 9. International Federation of Training and Development Organizations | 15 |
| 10. José Martí Cultural Society | 17 |
| 11. Kongres Wanita Indonesia | 18 |
| 12. Leonard Cheshire Disability | 19 |
| 13. Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation | 21 |
| 14. National Assembly of Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan | 23 |
| 15. Pro Dignitate Foundation of Human Rights | 24 |



1. Azerbaijan Women and Development Centre

Special, 1998

Introduction

Among the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in Azerbaijan, women's organizations have also achieved success in their work. They regularly and actively participate in the public and political life of the country, as well as in international women's movements. One such organization is Azerbaijan Women and Development Centre, which was established in June 1994 and registered in June 1995.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The main aim of the organization is to conduct research and implement activities on addressing social problems in order to strengthen the role and participation of women in sustainable development processes, improve their situation and protect their rights.

The organization consists of departments on human rights, education, legislation, women's employment and social services, women and the environment, health and family, youth, and peace, as well as on refugee and village women.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2000, the first children's organization in Azerbaijan was established within the organization. Comprising thousands of members, the Azerbaijan Child and Youth Peace Network functions as a resource centre on child rights. In 2001 the first School of Leadership and the Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations on Child Rights were created within the Network. The members of the Network and the school conduct trainings, meetings and leisure events for children living in settlements for refugees and internally displaced persons, orphanages, boarding schools and correctional facilities.

Another integral part of the organization is the Resource Center for Old People, established in 2001, and whose main purpose is to provide moral support to old people, partially solve their physical, psychological and health problems and organize their leisure time.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Working with the local offices of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the organization has implemented various important projects. The majority of its activities supported the Millennium Development Goals.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Since 1996 the organization has been in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the only women's organization in Azerbaijan with this high status. It allows the organization to appoint its representatives to United Nations Headquarters in New York and to the United Nations Offices at Vienna and

Geneva. The organization is a representative of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in Azerbaijan.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization participated in the implementation of the programmes of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and worked closely with UNITAR, including awareness-raising on reproductive health, healthy maternity, family planning (giving birth only to desired children), sexually transmitted diseases and ways of protection, healthy youth and other issues in Azerbaijan. One of the organization's projects was the promotion of reproductive health and family planning in remote areas, implemented with the financial support of the State Non-Governmental Organization Support Fund under the President of Azerbaijan.

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

The protection of the reproductive health of the population, birth of desired children in families and the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C, which result in death, provide grounds for the growth of a healthy young generation. The organization provided humanitarian, medical and psychological aid and information on reproductive health, family planning and education of children in kindergarten and rehabilitation centres.

The organization is engaged in the promotion of breastfeeding. It is the only representative on the "Improvement and protection of healthy feeding" in Azerbaijan. Since 1999, the organization, with the support of UNICEF, has implemented projects on breastfeeding in Azerbaijan, mother-to-mother support, the protection of maternity through a carefree place of work, and monitoring of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-Milk Substitutes, among others, and has carried out activities to raise awareness of the importance of breastfeeding and its significance for mothers' and children's health, as well as of iodine deficiency. Centres for infants and mothers were created in three health-care facilities, and, with the support of the centre's staff, mother-to-mother assistance in breastfeeding was initiated.

2. Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women

Special, 1998

Introduction

Established in 1977, the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women/l'Institut canadien de recherches sur les femmes is a national organization that functions in Canada's two official languages, French and English, and has members in all provinces and territories.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's mandate is to build bridges between community-based and university-based research and links between research, action and social change. It

undertakes original research, synthesizes existing research and disseminates both in the community and the university. Its work is guided by the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

Significant changes in the organization

Until the changes in the funding criteria of the Government of Canada in 2006, the organization received most of its funding from Status of Women Canada. Owing to those changes, its budget has been significantly reduced and comes mainly from membership fees and donations. Since Status of Women Canada eliminated funding for research, the organization had to drastically reduce its operations (including the elimination of the Executive Director position in 2008), increase its fund-raising and apply for research grants through such agencies as the Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has been instrumental in anchoring much of the work related to the Fourth World Conference on Women for women's NGOs in Canada.

The organization has continued to weave the work of various United Nations bodies into its core feminist research work. Participating in the United Nations meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women has allowed the organization to remain connected to the wider movements of NGOs.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

A representative of the organization has attended all of the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women during the reporting period.

Articles on the Commission on the Status of Women, Beijing+10, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women have been included in our national newsletter, which is produced twice a year in French and English, distributed to individual and institution members and, since November 2007, available on the organization's website.

One of the organization's representatives to the Commission on the Status of Women has been a guest lecturer at the University of Saskatchewan on topics related to their meetings. In 2009, events to mark Beijing+10 were organized in Saskatoon, Canada.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization cooperates with the Human Rights Council, promoting it in Canada, and, with other NGOs, providing feedback to representatives of the Government of Canada about issues on its agenda.

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

To support the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal 3, promote gender equality and empower women, the organization has focused its research and activities on issues linked to economic and social justice and continued to apply

intersectional feminist analysis to do so. During the reporting period, the organization produced three fact sheets and six other publications.

Workshops with feminist civil society organizations have allowed the organization to test and revise its guide to using intersectional feminist frameworks in research. In 2007 it also organized in Ottawa a national forum entitled “Women resisting poverty and exclusion: alternative visions and practices”, and in 2008 it organized a workshop of women from community organizations and academia to explore the theme “Community transformations as a result of economic restructuring: learning from women’s experience”. The 2008 workshop resulted in a major community-university research alliance application in 2009.

In 2008, the organization undertook a one-year project on embracing the complexities of women’s lives with funding from the Women’s Program, Status of Women Canada, to develop concrete tools with community organizations in three Canadian cities to apply an intersectional feminist framework to their work.

Additional information

The organization firmly supports the United Nations and its various bodies and mechanisms. To increase their impact, the organization attempts to provide more accessible versions of United Nations documents. Having special consultative status has allowed the organization to participate in a number of United Nations events and meetings, which has informed its work and provided a global perspective on a number of issues linked to women’s equality.

The organization deeply appreciates the Commission’s work for women’s equality globally, which is extremely relevant to its efforts to advocate the advancement of women’s equality in Canada.

3. European Union of Women

Special, 2002

Introduction

The European Union of Women is an international NGO with 19 member organizations not only from the European Union but from all across Europe. It works in different international commissions dealing with different topics and European questions.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to attract more women to get involved in the unification process of Europe and specifically deals with questions relating to the fields where women can make a difference. Its purpose is to make the European unification process better known and to promote the basic values of Europe.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization is active in all NGO panels in the United Nations and has representatives at the United Nations institutions in New York, Geneva and Vienna. It also tries to send representatives to all major meetings and to present its views in oral contributions and written amendments.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization has representatives in all United Nations institutions where questions regarding women are discussed, and participates actively in promoting its ideas and values.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization cooperates through NGO forums and its representatives in United Nations institutions. For many years, it has been a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, which is another forum in which it is actively involved.

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

At all of its recent international conferences, the organization actively discussed the Millennium Development Goals. It subsequently tried to lobby in its national parliaments, as well as in the European Parliament and United Nations institutions, to which all the final documents from its conferences were submitted.

Additional information

There is no additional information.

4. EUROSOLAR Turkey

Special, 2006

Introduction

EUROSOLAR Turkey was established in Istanbul in 2002 as the Turkish section of the European Association for Renewable Energy (EUROSOLAR), founded in 1988 in Bonn, Germany.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims of the organization are to:

- Promote a sustainable future, with total replacement of nuclear and fossil energy with renewable energy resources.
- Change conventional political priorities and infrastructure in favour of renewable energy.
- Bring together expertise from the fields of politics, industry, science, management and culture to promote the utilization of renewable energy.

To achieve these aims, the organization is:

- Laying the ground for solutions to the dependence of energy consumption on foreign fossil fuel sources and promoting the utilization of the Turkish renewable energy potential, incomparably abundant and varied. To this end, the organization is organizing international conferences and seminars annually, covering energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions for a sustainable development.
- Contributing to the development of legislation in the renewable energy field in Turkey, especially regarding harmonization with European Union policy.
- Mobilizing civil society and the country's internal dynamics for a sustainable drive towards a clean and independent energy policy. The organization is a member in all regional environmental platforms and a founding member of the Turkish Clean Energy Platform and the Environmental Platform of Turkey.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization held its ninth workshop on wind energy farms in June 2007 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Representatives of the organization attended and made presentations in several conferences and activities, including the following:

- August 2009, Environmental Platform of Turkey, Representatives Council, Istanbul, Turkey
- February 2009, seminar on the Kyoto Protocol and energy policies, Istanbul, Turkey
- February 2009, Ecological Perspectives in Architecture, Istanbul, Turkey
- January 2009, symposium on ecological approaches for local governments, Urfa, Turkey
- October 2008, World Wind Energy Conference, Ontario, Canada
- October 2008, Renewable Energy Conference, University of Marmara, Istanbul, Turkey
- August 2008, meeting on solidarity for a non-nuclear Mediterranean, Mersin, Turkey
- March 2008, foundation meeting of the Turkish Clean Energy Platform, Ankara
- June 2008, energy and environment panels in two municipalities in Istanbul, Turkey
- October 2007, World Wind Energy Conference, Mar del Plata, Argentina
- June 2007, seminar on the role of NGOs, universities and civilians in developing energy policies, Van, Turkey
- April 2007, climate change seminar, Sakarya, Turkey

Representatives of the organization participated in several television programmes on environment and energy.

The organization, in association with EUROSOLAR headquarters, organizes the annual awards of the European solar prizes. Innovative projects and initiatives for renewable energy applications are honoured in various categories.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009.

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

The organization's activities support Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, to ensure environmental sustainability. The organization is a member of all regional environmental platforms in Turkey and leads the activities in those platforms to create awareness of and ensure environmental sustainability through energy end use efficiency and renewable energy utilization. The annual international renewable energy conferences organized by the organization and supported by the Union of Municipalities of Turkey include sessions on environmental sustainability of local governments.

The organization is starting training programmes on renewable energy, energy efficiency and sustainable development of municipalities.

5. Global Housing Foundation

Special, 2002

Introduction

Global Housing Foundation is a legally constituted not-for-profit corporation set up to facilitate the provision of affordable housing in assisting the implementation of chapter III, section A, of the Habitat Agenda of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization supports the inclusion of shelter as a human right, as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and seeks to promote affordable and decent housing as a means of improving deficient conditions in slums and squatter settlements.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2006, the founder of the organization, a recipient of the Habitat Scroll of Honour, passed away, and an extended reorganization ensued owing to the financial recession and its impact on the securitization programmes for housing developments worldwide.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization works in partnership with the United Nations through UN-Habitat and maintains information networks with other organizations engaged in the provision of housing and housing finance institutions. It has contact through its membership with representatives from government housing ministries in Central America, Europe and South Africa. United Nations staff and delegates are invited to participate in occasional substantive meetings involving public and private sector actors essential to this process.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives of the organization participated in many relevant conferences of the Economic and Social Council, in particular those of the Commission on Sustainable Development and Commission for Social Development, and all major meetings of UN-Habitat, including the conference on “Sustainable Cities: Urban Design” held in 2006 and the annual World Habitat Day events. Some members contributed presentations and were invited as speakers at sessions of the World Urban Forum (Vancouver, Canada, in 2006 and Nanjing, China, in 2008). The organization was also represented at the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in 2007 and 2009 and was a member of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Human Settlements during the reporting period.

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

The work of the organization supports mainly Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, improving the living conditions of 100 million slum dwellers, and to some extent Goals 3 and 8, the former relating to improving the lives of women who live in deficient housing and infrastructure and need access to land and financing opportunities for homes and home-based occupations. It should be mentioned that women beneficiaries of the organization’s projects also receive title to the property. As for Goal 8, on the establishment of global partnerships in order to realize the Goals, innovative financial mechanisms are an obvious imperative to respond to human needs, at least one of which the organization aspires to develop.

6. Hawa Society for Women

Special, 2002

Introduction

Hawa Society for Women was established in 1983 by Abla Mahdi Abdelmoniem, with the main aim of empowering women and assisting them in improving their social and economic well-being. The organization has assisted hundreds of women and children and continues to adopt new programmes each year.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The main aims and objectives of the organization include capacity-building, poverty alleviation, food security, community development, peacebuilding and the development of national and international NGOs working in the same fields. The

organization aims to empower women by strengthening their role in society and educating them on their rights, as well as through strong community sensitization.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Among other factors, the organization works under the moral guidance and direction of the United Nations. To that end, it tries to educate people on their rights in line with the basic human rights. Furthermore, the organization continuously advocates and works towards achieving gender balance and equality. It also puts great effort into capacity-building and assisting vulnerable groups in assisting themselves, by adopting recovery activities that allow them to provide for themselves and escape from poverty.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the following meetings:

- Preparatory activity, World Food Summit, Rome
- Annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Organized an event on economic empowerment in collaboration with Business and Professional Women Egypt and Sudan
- Conference on small-scale enterprises (International Labour Organization (ILO), Egypt, 2009)
- Several events during the sessions of the Human Rights Council (2006-2009)

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization is working in collaboration with United Nations bodies, such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on food security projects and ILO in economic empowerment for women. As its programmes expand, the organization aims to work with more United Nations bodies in hopes of improving the livelihoods of the vulnerable people that it aims to assist.

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

Goal 1. The organization works on various activities, including support to small businesses, to reduce poverty rates and provide individuals with the means to support themselves.

Goal 3. The organization is based on the belief that gender equality must be achieved across the world. To that end, it works with women in the local community to strengthen their economic and social stature. The organization's work includes supporting women in starting and maintaining small businesses that would assist them in depending on themselves.

Goals 4 and 5. Child and maternal health were the main objectives of the training of midwives conducted by the organization.

7. Inter-European Parliamentary Forum on Population and Development

Special, 2006

Introduction

The organization is a Brussels-based parliamentary network that serves as a platform for cooperation and coordination for more than 27 all-party groups in parliaments throughout Europe that focus on improving sexual and reproductive health and rights at home and abroad through national and regional health and foreign aid budgets. It now gathers 27 parliamentary groups, and its current Chair is George Tsereteli, Vice-President of the Georgian Parliament.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization believes that parliamentarians have the opportunity and the responsibility to promote sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender equality, which are core elements of human dignity and are central to human development.

The organization provides a pan-European framework for parliamentarians to forge consensus and collaborate on resource mobilization strategies.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2008, the organization's statutes were amended.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In October 2009, the organization participated with a delegation of 30 European parliamentarians in the International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action in Addis Ababa.

During the reporting period, the organization initiated and organized the meetings of the Group of Eight parliamentarians.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

In 2008, the organization brought a 10-member parliamentary delegation to the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It also brought a six-member parliamentary delegation from Europe to the forty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In September 2007, the organization co-organized with UNFPA a closing seminar for the UNFPA-European Union joint programme for the Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia. In June 2006, the Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in the South Caucasus was launched by the organization, UNFPA and the European Union.

In October 2008, the organization, in collaboration with the Belgian All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population and Development and the Global Fund to Fight

AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, organized an international high-level conference on the future of parliamentary involvement in global health and development.

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

During the reporting period, the organization organized 20 parliamentary field visits focused on the Millennium Development Goals, bringing a total of 142 European parliamentarians to developing countries.

Goal 4: reduce child mortality

In 2009 the organization joined Action For Global Health, a European network of NGOs advocating for Europe to play a proactive role in enabling developing countries to meet the health-related Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

In November 2009 the organization was invited by the GAVI Alliance to bring a 10-member delegation to the Fourth GAVI Alliance Partners' Forum, held in Viet Nam.

Goal 5: improve maternal health

In 2006, the organization held a workshop to discuss sexual and reproductive health and rights and the Millennium Development Goals.

Goal 6: combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

In 2006, the organization joined 10 civil society organizations from Europe to launch a three-year project called the European Alliance Against Malaria.

In April 2007, the organization created its malaria task force with the Malaria Consortium and the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases.

From 2007 to 2009, members of the organization's malaria task force organized events all over Europe to commemorate World Malaria Day.

In December 2008, the organization brought a parliamentary delegation of eight members to participate in the Global Fund's Partnership Forum in Dakar.

8. International Association for Women's Mental Health

Special, 2006

Introduction

The International Association for Women's Mental Health is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established in 2001 to improve the mental health of women throughout the world.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's mission is to:

- Improve the mental health of women throughout the world

- Expand the fund of knowledge about women's mental health
- Promote gender-sensitive and autonomy-enhancing mental health services for women
- Create a network of national and international societies and sections devoted to the mental health of women

Through international collaboration and networks, the organization aims to promote research into:

- Social, economic, ethical, legal, cultural, psychological and biological factors that affect women's mental health
- Women's roles in marriage, family and society, and their effects on mental health
- Causes, effects and elimination of domestic violence and abuse of women
- Causes, treatment and prevention of mental diseases or disorders that are specific to or more prevalent, more severe or have different risk factors or outcomes in women
- Gender-specific effects of treatment
- Basic sciences pertinent to gender difference and female biology

Significant changes in the organization

There are no changes, except for a larger and broader membership.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

- The organization is an active member of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Mental Health and contributed to the 2009 civil society outcome document on public health.
- The organization contributed to and endorsed several statements, including on financing for gender equality and empowerment of women, the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men and caregiving for HIV/AIDS.
- The organization endorsed several statements to the Human Rights Council on the eradication of extreme poverty as a condition to peace; the relation between indigenous people and the human right to peace; the human right to peace vs. racism, xenophobia and other forms of discrimination; the gender approach to the human right to peace; and the human right to peace and migration.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

A representative from the organization attended the 2009 session of the Commission on the Status of Women and presented at two related symposiums on women's mental health. The organization lacks funds for travel.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization:

- Developed consensus statements on violence against women and on women's mental health, which have been endorsed by over 130 international organizations and published in *World Psychiatry*.
- Conducted a survey of the reporting of and policies on child abuse and sexual abuse of women, which was published in *World Psychiatry*.
- Helped to draft a World Health Organization document on maternal mental illness.
- Participated in the UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign (2008-2009), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action by increasing public and professional awareness at its congresses and regional meetings.
- Promoted global public health and gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives of the Economic and Social Council at its meetings and congresses through symposiums and publications.

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

The organization's activities focused on the promotion of gender equality and empowering women by organizing and participating in conferences in 2006 (Medellin, Colombia; Lima; Madrid; Istanbul, Turkey; and Tunis), 2007 (Australia, Brazil, Colombia, Switzerland and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), 2008 (Czech Republic, Peru and Spain) and 2009 (India, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)). Those conferences dealt with human rights for women patients, violence against women, education for women, economic empowerment and women's health, and women's reproductive rights and health.

The organization's representatives also authored many papers in scientific journals and the lay press on those subjects.

Additional information

The organization organized multidisciplinary international congresses in Melbourne, Australia (2008), on women's mental health, which was attended by more than 700 delegates from 52 countries. Its official journal, *Archives of Women's Mental Health*, is internationally recognized as a leader in research education and advocacy for women's mental health.

9. International Federation of Training and Development Organizations

Special, 2002

Introduction

The International Federation of Training and Development Organizations was founded in Geneva in 1972 in order to develop and maintain a worldwide network committed to the identification, development and transfer of knowledge, skills and technology to enhance personal growth, human performance, productivity and sustainable development.

The organization is the most multinational and multicultural training and development organization in the world with a truly diverse board of directors leading the organization. Its members form a highly diverse network of human resource management and development organizations globally, linking human resource professionals in human resource societies, corporations, universities, consultancies, government organizations and enterprises. The organization currently represents more than 500,000 professionals in over 30 countries.

The organization is a charity registered with the Charity Commission and as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales. It is a non-profit, tax-exempt, 501 (c) (3) organization in the United States.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's vision is to be a unique and effective resource to the human resource development profession working globally for the betterment of life. Its mission is to promote the concept of human resource development as an effective organizational tool across all sectors of society, in order to increase personal and organizational effectiveness.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes in the organization. The Board of Directors is international, with members from various countries, and elections are regularly held every year in accordance with the organization's memorandum and articles of association.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization's representatives to the United Nations have made presentations on United Nations-related topics and matters of interest at the organization's annual conferences, which take place in various countries. Its member organizations are, therefore, kept up to date with United Nations progress and current issues.

The organization is a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations and is active in its meetings in the Geneva area. The organization is also an active member of the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization's representative participated in several United Nations meetings. Richard A. Zeif was the Special Adviser to the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States. The organization is represented at all briefings and important meetings in New York and elsewhere.

The organization's Secretary General, Uddesh Kohli, attended all meetings under the United Nations Global Compact held from 2006 to 2009. He also participated in the working group meetings of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law in 2008 and 2009.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization has been closely working with ILO. Tony Twigger, Executive Director from 2006 to 2008, worked on a number of ILO projects, which are summarized below:

- Proposal for a European Union-financed ILO project in Bangladesh, completed in April 2006
- ILO-funded assignment to conduct a review of the training system in the Islamic Republic of Iran, undertaken in November/December 2006
- Independent, external evaluation of ILO project on skills development for the reconstruction and recovery of Kosovo, commissioned by ILO late in 2007
- Review of the vocational training system in the Sudan to assess the vocational education and training system, formulate a strategy for the development of a more responsive system and share the immediate results with the system's stakeholders (December 2007)
- The organization's Secretary General has been involved from the beginning in the United Nations Global Compact. He has attended all meetings under the programme held during the reporting period, and has been designated as Senior Adviser in the programme.

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

The organization's Secretary General, through his participation in the United Nations Global Compact, has worked on creating awareness of the Millennium Development Goals.

Additional information

The organization, jointly with its member organizations, has been holding its annual world conferences in different countries. It has also been publishing its publications and newsletters and disseminating information through its website and has undertaken specialized projects. All these activities have helped in exchanging knowledge and experiences and creating awareness of better systems and technologies for human resource development.

10. José Martí Cultural Society

Special, 2002

Introduction

The José Martí Cultural Society has 15 provincial branches and 1 in the special municipality of Isla de la Juventud, Cuba, as well as in 33 municipal councils. It has 10,200 members grouped throughout the country in 653 Martí clubs, its rank-and-file organizations.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization works in correspondence with the targets of the Economic and Social Council and, in general, of the United Nations: the defence of peace and peaceful coexistence among all peoples; sustainable development, with emphasis on respect for the environment; and the fight against all forms of racism and discrimination for reasons of race, sex or religion, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. During the reporting period, the organization systematically developed actions at the national and commune levels for the promotion of civic values, peace and solidarity, with an emphasis on schools and on children, adolescents and young people. The organization also focused its work on the mass media, in order to promote those values related to ethics, culture, the school and the family. The organization also supported older persons through its work with the Martí clubs.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization is one of the main promoters of the José Martí Project of World Solidarity, approved in 2003, at the thirty-second session of the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The project's World Council is formed by 50 international personalities and aims to promote peace and development. The Second International Conference for World Balance was celebrated in 2008 with the sponsorship of UNESCO. The organization made a written contribution to the Human Rights Council in Geneva (Working Group on the Universal Periodical Review) in 2009.

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

Directly related to Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, the organization works to promote forests and gardens named after José Martí, as part of its efforts to contribute to the formation of values for the protection and care of natural resources and to educate children and youngsters in the preservation of the environment, as well as in creating a culture that favours sustainable development, on the basis of José Martí's ideas. Every year the organization organizes a colloquium on José Martí and the culture of nature as a national event that has contributed to the promotion of ideas in defence of the environment and the planting of more than 500 woods and gardens throughout the country.

Additional information

During the reporting period, the organization promoted the ideas of José Martí in countries in the Americas and Europe, including through the creation of Martí clubs in Canada, Italy, Mexico, Panama, Portugal and Spain. It also publishes its quarterly magazine, *Honda*, with 30 issues of 3,000 copies each circulated throughout the country. Special issues have been dedicated to such topics as bioethics, the culture of nature and the thoughts of the patriots and founders of Cuba, Latin America and the Caribbean, among others.

11. Kongres Wanita Indonesia

Special, 1998

Introduction

Kongres Wanita Indonesia was established in December 1928, during the Congress of Indonesian women's organizations. Inspired by the spirit of the Indonesian Youth Pledge, the Congress arrived at a mutual commitment to strive together as one union. This led to the establishment of a federation of women's organizations now known as Kongres Wanita Indonesia.

In its development, besides striving for equal rights and status of women, the organization also actively participated hand in hand with the men on the front line of the war for independence from 1945 to 1949. Its efforts to strive for equal rights, equal responsibilities and equal opportunities for men and women alike are recognized in the 1945 State Constitution.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's vision is strengthening the struggle, unity and cooperation of all women's organizations as a federation, with a strong belief in God, independence, high dignity, equality and justice, based on human rights and democracy.

The organization's mission is to:

- Coordinate and unite women in all aspects of life
- Lead the aspirations and struggles of Indonesian women in all their national, regional and international aspects
- Struggle for fairness and gender equality in family and social life at the national and international levels
- Increase women's role and opportunities within legislative, executive, judicial and non-governmental institutions

The main aims of the organization are to coordinate women's efforts into concerted endeavours and promote the full implementation of women's equality of rights, responsibilities and opportunities, so as to position women as equal partners to men in national development, the family, community and global society.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization's partners, among others, are the United Nations entities in Indonesia: the United Nations Information Centre, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP,

UNIFEM, UNFPA and ILO, and international bodies such as the Ford Foundation, the Asia Foundation, the Canadian International Development Agency, the Australian Agency for International Development and foreign embassies.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

There was no participation during the reporting period.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization is a member of the International Council of Women.

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

The organization supported Government regulation to protect women and children from domestic violence and trafficking, in accordance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It conducts dialogue and meetings with officials, in which it stresses that trafficking is a human rights violation.

To improve knowledge of management of cooperatives among Indonesian women, in 2008, the organization, together with the Ministry of Cooperatives, conducted training on cooperative management and a seminar on empowering women in economy through small and medium-sized enterprises and on consumer rights.

To implement the Law on the Rights of the Child and Child Protection, the organization developed a project to empower street children. Skills training, scholarships, several mobile libraries and several public health services were provided.

During the reporting period, the organization strove to empower women through sustainable development and environment conservation and to build the economy through recycling.

Additional information

There is no additional information.

12. Leonard Cheshire Disability

Special, 2006

Introduction

Working with partners in 54 countries, Leonard Cheshire Disability, founded in 1948, delivers programmes in the fields of inclusive education, livelihoods, support for everyday living, capacity-building of local partners and campaigning and advocacy. An evidence base for its policy and programmes is provided by the Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre, which is run jointly with University College London and specializes in world-class qualitative and quantitative research in the fields of disability and international development.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's mission is to enable disabled people to improve their quality of life and to campaign for the removal of the barriers that hinder them. In its programmes and in its advocacy, it promotes and defends the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other international instruments that seek to promote and protect the rights of disabled people. Whether campaigning and mobilizing others or supporting innovation and standards in service delivery, it seeks to change attitudes and responses to disability and have a positive impact on policy globally, regionally and nationally.

Significant changes in the organization

During the reporting period, the organization's Young Voices advocacy programme expanded from 6 countries to 20. It builds the capacity of young people with disabilities to advocate for their rights under the Convention. The organization has therefore been able to bring the voices of one of the most marginalized groups into the heart of the United Nations system. Several examples of the impact of its campaigning work on the Convention can be found at <http://youngvoices.lcdisability.org>.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In addition to regularly responding to United Nations consultations, the organization responds to direct requests for assistance from the United Nations system. For example, in 2009 the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, Vernor Muñoz, asked the organization to provide a section on inclusive education and Goal 2 of the Millennium Development Goals for his own report. Another example was in 2006, when the organization contributed to the development of a United Nations briefing note on youth living with disabilities at the request of the secretariat of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

In 2006 representatives of its Young Voices programme (young people with disabilities from the global South) attended the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities, and the organization hosted a side event, which was widely praised for helping to bring young people with disabilities from the global South into the NGO processes, which influenced the outcome of the Ad Hoc Committee process. The organization's staff and Young Voices advocates also attended subsequent Ad Hoc Committee meetings. Staff attended the sessions of the Commission for Social Development in 2008 and 2009 and contributed a written statement during both years. In 2009 the organization chaired a side event on behalf of the International Disability and Development Consortium on inclusive development. Staff also regularly attended meetings of the Human Rights Council in Geneva and the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The organization's staff also spoke at the Inter-Agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In 2008 the organization hosted a major international conference on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Addis Ababa together with the Economic Commission for Africa.

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

In 2009 the organization's staff chaired and participated in the United Nations expert group meeting on mainstreaming disability in policies, processes and mechanisms related to the Millennium Development Goals. This produced a report that had an impact on the approach taken by United Nations institutions towards the inclusion of people with disabilities in monitoring processes, such as the General Assembly resolution on realizing the Millennium Development Goals for people with disabilities. In addition, working with the Millennium Campaign, the organization and other members of the International Disability and Development Consortium produced the website www.IncludeEverybody.org, which is intended to promote the disability dimension in the Millennium Development Goals among Governments, policymakers and mainstream NGOs.

13. Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation

Special, 2002

Introduction

The Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation is a public benefit organization operated in Istanbul, Turkey, since 1985. For more than two decades, the organization has had the privilege of working with statesmen, Government officials, parliamentarians, academicians, chairpersons and directors of chambers of commerce and industry, along with various NGO representatives throughout the world interested in its work. Widely recognized by numerous segments in Turkey, the organization contributes to the shaping of public opinion through its meetings and events, earning it an outstanding position on the country's platform of NGOs.

The organization studies not only global issues, such as the economy, administration, security and defence, but also regional issues, such as the European Union, the Middle East, Asia, Cyprus, the Balkans and the Caucasus, by preparing and implementing workshops and publishing documents with the support of its Academic Council.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to raise awareness of crucial issues through its meetings, conferences and events in Turkey and abroad. Its major objective is to encourage social, economic and political cooperation to promote human development.

The organization aims to promote mutual understanding and dialogue between cultures, religions, civil societies and Governments and encourages social, economic and political cooperation among neighbouring countries to reach sustainable peaceful and stable conditions.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization participated in the general elections in Kazakhstan in August 2007, the presidential election in Uzbekistan in December 2007 and the presidential election in Azerbaijan in October 2008 as an observer NGO under the coordination of the United Nations.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

- The organization participated in the preparatory meeting for the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2006 of the Economic and Social Council, on “Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development”, in April 2006 in New York.
- Representatives of the organization attended the meeting of the Council in February 2008 in New York.
- Representative of the organization attended the forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development in February 2008 at United Nations Headquarters.

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

Goal 3

- In January 2006, the organization completed its Social Total Organization Project (STOP), which aimed to improve the employment chances of the 120 young women who had not received university education.
- The organization, in cooperation with the Izmir Economy University and the Izmir Chamber of Commerce, held a conference on the effects of the European Union on the socio-economic development of women in June 2006 in Izmir, Turkey.
- In February 2007, the organization established the Sustainable Development Platform with a view to generating innovative solutions and models for economic, social and environmental development at the regional and global levels.
- The organization published a book on national women’s policies/action plans for the period 2007-2012 in June 2007.
- A project was carried out by the European Union and the Human Rights Platform to improve the social status of young women through beekeeping and the production of organic honey in rural areas between November 2007 and September 2008 in the north-western Marmara Region.
- A project was carried out in collaboration with Kadıköy Municipality (Istanbul) and Marmara University on development by improving women entrepreneurship in March 2007.
- Women’s sessions were organized in the Eurasian economic summits, annual meetings of ministerial-level participants from 48 countries to encourage the development of social, economic and political cooperation.

Goal 7

- A project was carried out by the European Union and the Human Rights Platform to improve the social status of young women through beekeeping and the production of organic honey in rural areas between November 2007 and September 2008 in the north-western Marmara Region.
- In February 2007, the organization established the Sustainable Development Platform with a view to generating innovative solutions and models for economic, social and environmental development at the regional and global levels.

Goal 8

- Eurasian economic summits, annual meetings of ministerial-level participants from 48 countries to encourage the development of social, economic and political cooperation.
- “Peace and love Iftar dinners”, annual meetings that religious leaders from various religions attended, and in which intercultural dialogue was encouraged.

14. National Assembly of Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Special, 2002**Introduction**

The National Assembly of Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan was established by 11 youth organizations on 21 November 1995. The organization is a united youth platform and the leading youth organization, cooperation centre and mediator of youth structures, organizing the international integration of young people. It is a full member of the European Youth Forum (Youth Forum Jeunesse).

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization’s tasks include:

- Ensuring young people’s rights
- Increasing the participation of young people and youth organizations in decision-making
- Providing a positive impact on the development of policy concerning young people and youth organizations
- Establishing independent and sustainable youth organizations at the national level
- Organizing the exchange of knowledge, ideas and experience
- Coordinating the activities of member children’s and youth organizations and supporting their development
- Representing the interests of young people and youth organizations at the national, regional and international levels

- Conducting cooperative work in protecting the rights and solving the problems of young people
- Achieving solidarity among young people and youth organizations in the solution of national issues

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2008 and 2009, the organization provided a training programme on peer-to-peer education.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization is an active participant of the United Nations Interagency Group on Young People's Health Development and Protection, which is supported by UNICEF in Azerbaijan.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

2008-2009 — During the "Healthy lifestyle and sport" project, the organization, in cooperation with the United Nations, organized regional training to promote a healthy lifestyle and sport among young people in Azerbaijan.

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

2008-2009 — The training programme on peer-to-peer education helped to further the Millennium Development Goals.

15. Pro Dignitate Foundation of Human Rights

Special, 2002

Introduction

The organization aims to promote human rights through scientific studies, planning and the promotion and evaluation of preventive measures and other actions conducted in defence of human rights.

In order to accomplish its aims, the organization proposes to:

- Promote periodic scientific sessions and studies on the connection between the real or potential violation of human rights and violence in society
- Hold conferences, courses and seminars based on themes linked to its aims
- Collect, examine and divulge information regarding human rights and the prevention of individual and social violence
- Plan, promote and evaluate actions to prevent violence

- Assure permanent intervention in the procedures, initiatives and activities of public and private national entities, as well as specialized international entities, which might violate human rights or generate violence
- Promote actions of solidarity and support in situations of human rights violations and violence

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's activities are carried out by means of:

- Publication of booklets and speeches from seminars and conferences on education for peace, the prevention of violence at school, in the family, in the media and in society
- Promotion of campaigns in schools, enterprises and the media, with a view to collecting school materials for schools in need in Portuguese-speaking countries. Those campaigns, called "To educate for solidarity", began in 1996 in Angola and continued in Cape Verde, Guinea, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor-Leste. To date 440 tons of materials have been sent to those countries.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Seminars in Lisbon to commemorate Human Rights Day with the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies, such as UNESCO, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau and United Nations Radio (New York).
