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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Association for Reproductive and Family Health

Special, 2007

Introduction

The Association for Reproductive and Family Health, a leading, indigenous non-governmental, not-for-profit organization in Nigeria, was established in 1989 and registered in 1991 with the Corporate Affairs Commission.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization is committed to enhancing the quality of life, reproductive health and rights of individuals and communities in Nigeria and elsewhere in Africa. Its mission is to initiate, promote and implement, in partnership with other organizations, sustainable sexual, reproductive and family health and other contemporary public health information and services for adults and youth.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization has successfully implemented several reproductive health and public health projects, which have contributed to its growth and expansion as an organization. In 2007, the organization was selected as a principal recipient of a Global Fund HIV project in Nigeria, which has enlarged its impact in all 36 states of the country. The organization has had the opportunity to enlarge its scope of work to include other contemporary public health issues. In particular, in 2009, it was also selected as a principal recipient of a Global Fund tuberculosis project and a sub-recipient of a Global Fund malaria project. In addition to its Global Fund projects, the organization's involvement in a Save the Children UK project has expanded its area of focus.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In line with the mission of the United Nations, the organization, through its advocacy efforts and implementation of safe motherhood projects, has contributed to the national focus of integrated maternal, neonatal and child health policy and programmes.

Participation in meetings in the United Nations

In 2008, the organization participated in a United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) consultative forum on safe motherhood in New York.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization has worked with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Society for Family Health to implement a project aimed at the provision of reproductive health care, HIV/AIDS prevention and care services to adolescents through the national youth service corps. The organization, with support from UNFPA, also implemented a project designed to increase access to quality reproductive health services in five Nigerian states through the use of community-based distribution agents and male involvement.

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

The organization has continued to implement projects aimed at contributing to the achievement of Goals 3 to 6 of the Millennium Development Goals. In line with Goal 3, the organization, with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency, implemented a project designed to build the capacity of 12 non-governmental and community-based organizations in three Nigerian states in integrating gender and human rights issues into youth-focused interventions. The organization also promotes girl child education. In contribution to the realization of Goals 4 and 5, it implemented several maternal and child health projects in Nigeria. Notable among them is the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded Nigerian Urban Reproductive Health Initiative, a five-year project aimed at eliminating the supply and demand barriers to contraceptive use in order to increase the contraceptive prevalence rate by 20 per cent in selected urban areas of Nigeria. The organization also implemented a Futures Institute-funded project geared towards building leadership support for urban reproductive health in six urban cities in Nigeria. The organization, with support from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, also sought to improve maternal and child health by strengthening the capacities of health-care facilities for quality reproductive health service provision. It also contributed to the achievement of Goal 6 by implementing several projects to mitigate the impact of HIV/AIDS through increased access to HIV prevention information and treatment services. These include a World Bank-supported project aimed at reducing the vulnerability of in-school young people with disabilities to HIV/AIDS, an AIDS Prevention Initiative in Nigeria-sponsored project aimed at increasing the access of different cohorts of the population to HIV prevention messages and HIV counselling and testing services, and a capacity-building project aimed at enhancing the capacities of community-based organizations in HIV project management through support from the International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs. In general, the organization promotes the mainstreaming of sexual and reproductive health and rights to ensure the achievement of all the Millennium Development Goals.

2. Center for Economic and Social Rights

Special, 1999

Introduction

The Center for Economic and Social Rights works to promote social justice through human rights.

Aims and purposes of the organization

There have been no changes.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization produced a fact sheet series entitled “Visualizing rights” aimed at contributing to the agenda of the treaty bodies, focusing on countries’ economic, social and cultural rights and obligations. Countries covered by the series include Angola, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Madagascar and the United States of America.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization co-hosted a side event entitled “Human rights in the United States: building foundations for freedom from want in the land of plenty” at the Human Rights Council in Geneva in November 2010; submitted a written contribution to the proposed draft General Comment on the right to sexual and reproductive health at the forty-fifth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in November 2010 and a written contribution giving normative guidance to the future content of the draft General Comment in October 2010; and submitted a joint written contribution with the Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales to the Committee on the Rights of the Child for its fifty-fourth session from May to June 2010. A written statement was submitted on the United States at the ninth session of the universal periodic review in November 2010, as well as a joint written statement on Egypt (seventh session of the universal periodic review, February 2010), Cambodia and Equatorial Guinea (sixth session of the universal periodic review, December 2009). The organization submitted jointly with the Instituto Centroamericano de Estudios Fiscales a statement entitled “Economic, social and cultural rights in Guatemala: a selective briefing” (second session of the universal periodic review, in May 2008). It hosted a side event on the theme “Human rights in Equatorial Guinea: taking action on the universal periodic review recommendations” in Geneva in March 2010 and co-sponsored a panel discussion at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the theme “Maternal mortality: rights of ‘critical concern’ within and beyond Beijing” in March 2010. The organization also co-hosted a side event on human rights responses to the global economic crisis, submitted a joint report entitled “Bringing human rights to bear in times of crisis: a human rights analysis of Government responses to the economic crisis” in Geneva in March 2010 and chaired and presented at a side event on the theme “Responding to the global economic crisis: are human rights relevant?” at the twelfth session of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva in November 2009.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization collaborated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on a training of trainers programme and provided training to Government representatives, civil society organizations and United Nations mission staff on a new programme to monitor public policy in Haiti and Liberia (November-December 2009).

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

The organization co-hosted a meeting on the theme “Human rights and development: taking stock, moving forward” around the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General

Assembly on how to better integrate human rights into the Goals (24 September 2010, New York); attended the High-level Plenary Meeting on 21 September 2010 and prepared a written contribution entitled “The MDGs, a decade on: keeping the promise, fulfilling rights”; held an expert consultation with OHCHR on the theme “Monitoring human rights and the MDGs: the quest for coherence” in Geneva in June 2008; participated in informal interactive hearings of civil society on the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly (June 2010, New York) and in a symposium on the Millennium Development Goals and human rights, hosted by Harvard Law School, OHCHR, UNICEF and the University of Oslo (March 2010); and attended a workshop on the right to adequate food and Goal 1, on hunger, as part of a meeting on the theme “Dialogues for action: human rights and MDGs” (South Africa, September 2008).

Additional information

The organization participated actively in many other United Nations forums not included in the present report.

3. Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions

Special, 1999

Introduction

Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions is a Geneva-based international, non-governmental human rights organization founded in 1994.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization’s mission is to ensure the full enjoyment of the human right to adequate housing for everyone, everywhere. It applies a human rights approach to housing and living conditions throughout the world with a view to redressing violations of housing rights, promoting compliance with international standards and preventing future infringements of housing rights.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2008, the organization lobbied for the approval by the General Assembly of an Optional Protocol to the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Covenant. It worked to facilitate access by its partners to various United Nations mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council; the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the Human Rights Committee; the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; and the Commission on the Status of Women. It worked closely with the President of the Human Rights Council, helping to establish the mandate of the independent expert, now Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The organization’s work has had a significant impact on the recognition of the fundamental right to water and sanitation.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization was an early leader before the Human Rights Council on the universal periodic review procedure, which became operative in the first half of 2008. It worked closely with OHCHR and provided documentation on housing rights issues during the universal periodic reviews. During the first interactive dialogues under the universal periodic reviews, which were held in April and May 2008, the organization lobbied Council members to take up housing rights issues. It participated actively in the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council. Noteworthy is the special session on Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, held in January 2008, when the organization made oral interventions from the floor and submitted a report on issues concerning the right to water and sanitation in the context of the Gaza blockade. The organization provided the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with housing rights materials for its review of France in May 2008. It also provided briefings on Brazil and Kosovo during the Committee's May 2008 pre-sessional working group meeting. The organization separately alerted the Committee to the fact that the new Kosovo Constitution excluded the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from a list of relevant applicable human rights treaties in Kosovo and subsequently urged urgent follow-up. In February 2008, the organization alerted the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination of Italy's non-compliance with international law banning racial discrimination, following its expulsion of Romanian citizens, and submitted urgent comments at the July-August 2008 session of the Committee. The organization also tested for the first time the Committee's early warning/urgent action procedure on a series of threatened forced eviction cases concerning Roma in the Czech Republic. In August 2008, the Committee acted on those concerns by sending an emergency communication to the Government of the Czech Republic in that regard. The organization also worked with a coalition of civil society partners on general reports for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, timed for its review of several countries, including Argentina, Slovakia and Sri Lanka. In the wake of the appointment of Raquel Rolnik to the position of Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, the organization worked to assist the mandate holder in the creation of a viable programme of work and provided materials on the right to adequate housing and on particular country situations.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization also successfully used various special procedures as a rapid response means of challenging or condemning housing rights violations. Matters of frequent interface with United Nations bodies included forced evictions; the right to water and sanitation; housing, land and property restitution for displaced persons and refugees; and women's rights.

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

- **Goal 1.** The organization provided extensive input during ongoing consultations on the draft guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights: the rights of the poor; and participated actively in the first Forum on Minority Issues, held in December 2008.

- **Goal 3.** The organization's cooperation on women and housing rights included both a global and country-specific emphasis targeting United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The organization engaged the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences by contributing to the housing rights section of a report released by the Special Rapporteur on the political economy of women's human rights. It also contributed to the development of the UN-Habitat Gender Equality Action Plan, which was approved in April 2009.

4. Coalition of Activist Lesbians (Australia)

Special, 1999

Introduction

Coalition of Activist Lesbians (Australia) is a national women's human rights organization working to advance the rights, participation and dignity of lesbian women of all ages, cultures and economic and social positions. The organization is the only national lesbian human rights organization in Australia to promote and protect the rights of lesbian women.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to promote the human rights, access, participation and equity of lesbian women and to contribute to society to promote the provision of fair treatment, dignity and social justice for lesbians. Its work encompasses feminist perspectives and women-focused advocacy for social justice, diversity, equity and respect in the advancement of civil society that recognizes and facilitates the legal and social participation of lesbians.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2008, the Australian federal Government passed the Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws — General Law Reform) Act 2008 and the Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws — Superannuation) Act 2008. These Acts addressed discrimination against lesbian women and others in same-sex relationships across some 84 statutes, including taxation, social security, aged care, child support, veterans' affairs, immigration and citizenship. However, problems became evident with the lack of suitable savings provisions, with reduced or denied social security benefits for those already in the system as single beneficiaries. The organization now recognizes that working for equality must take account of substantial equality rather than mere formal equality.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Since 2007, the organization has worked with other accredited Australian human rights organizations, such as Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and local organizations, such as the Australian Human Rights Commission and the Anti-Discrimination Board of New South Wales, to continue raising issues of lesbian human rights and ensuring that United Nations perspectives are articulated.

Part of the organization's work has been to raise awareness, within lesbian circles, the broader community and the various arms of Governments, of the significance of

international conventions, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to Australian lesbian women.

From 2008 to 2010, the organization participated in Beijing Platform for Action forums for non-governmental organizations in many States and attended federal Government seminars and consultations concerning the Platform and the Australian reports to the Commission on the Status of Women.

The organization's contributions include: a consultation with indigenous lesbian women (May 2007), a presentation at a family law seminar (August 2007), a seminar at each annual national older lesbians' conference (2007-2010), a paper at an international feminist conference (July 2007), a presentation at a cultural diversity forum (April 2008), speeches at the annual International Women's Day and International Lesbian Day (2007-2010), a paper at the Activating Human Rights and Peace Conference (2008) and presentations at a conference of women health practitioners (September 2009), and the National Women's Health Conference (2010).

The organization participated in the following activities: regional health (2007-2010), youth services (2007-2010), lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex services (2007-2010), International Women's Day (2007-2010), International Lesbian Day (2007-2010), Human Rights Day (2008-2009), human rights seminars organized by the Government of Australia (December 2007, March 2008, June 2008, August 2008) and regional and local service inter-agency meetings (2007-2010).

The organization made submissions on women's health (2008); suicide prevention (2009); human rights (2009); and aged care complaints (2010).

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization's members participated at the World Social Forum in 2007. Otherwise, its members did not participate in international United Nations meetings and forums because its focus has been on addressing the details of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action through its national work.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization did not participate directly in United Nations forums for two reasons: first, as indicated above, and by cooperating with other human rights and social justice organizations; and second, the organization has found it necessary to strengthen itself and build capacity so that its future participation in United Nations activities and cooperation with United Nations bodies will be effective.

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

The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals, particularly Goal 3, on gender equality and empowerment of women, in Australia through activities and submissions as listed above, by active membership in the New South Wales Reconciliation Council and through participation in the Older Women's Network. The organization's work to promote the transformative agenda of the Beijing Platform for Action complements aspects of the Goals.

Additional information

The unique combination of gender and sexual orientation issues informs the understanding of and provides insight into the lives and challenges facing lesbian women. The organization maintains that lesbian women have greater commonality with other women than with gay men. Because lesbian women are denied their full human rights, it is the organization's responsibility to seek remedies through advocacy, education, visible participation and human rights practices.

5. Colombian Commission of Jurists**Special, 1999****Introduction**

There have been no changes.

Aims and purposes of the organization

There have been no changes.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization attended all sessions of the Human Rights Council from the fourth (March 2007) to the fifteenth (September-October 2010) sessions. It was also represented at the following events: the first universal periodic review session; a side event on the theme "Colombia: from human rights crisis towards rule of law crisis"; a parallel event on human rights and the rule of law crisis in Colombia (all in 2008); a panel on the right to defend human rights in Colombia (2009); and an international conference on the theme "The Human Rights Council's performance to-date: a civil society perspective on priorities for the review 2011" in Berlin (October 2010).

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization presented the following statements at the fourth session of the Human Rights Council, in 2007: a written statement on behalf of Colombian non-governmental and social organizations; a joint oral statement with the International Commission of Jurists on the report of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention; a joint oral statement with the International Commission of Jurists on reports, studies and other documents prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General; a joint oral statement with Human Rights Watch and the International Commission of Jurists on the report of the Chair of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; and a joint oral statement with the same non-governmental organizations on the report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. At the sixth session of the Human Rights Council, also in 2007, it presented a joint oral statement with the World Organization Against Torture on the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict; a joint

oral statement with Baha'i International Community, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies and International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism on universal periodic review; and an oral statement during the general debate. At the same session, the organization presented its statements on the following reports: the report of the Open-ended Working Group on an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples; and the review of the mandate of the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons. At the seventh session, it presented statements on the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. At the eighth session, it made statements on the reports of the Open-ended Working Group on an optional protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons. At the ninth session, the following statements were presented: on the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, and on situations that deserve the attention of the Council. The organization also made statements at the tenth to thirteenth sessions of the Human Rights Council.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

No activities have been undertaken.

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

Organization of two thematic workshops: "Poverty, local development and MDGs" (September 2008, Santa Marta, Colombia) and "Poverty, development and MDGs: analysis from a global perspective" (June 2009, Bogotá). Both were jointly organized with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) country office, OHCHR and embassies in Colombia.

6. Conference of European Churches

Special, 1979

Introduction

The Conference of European Churches is a fellowship of some 120 Orthodox, Protestant, Anglican and Old Catholic Churches from all countries of Europe and 40 associated organizations. The organization was founded in 1959.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Church and Society Commission of the Conference of European Churches links member churches and associated organizations with the European Union's institutions, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation

in Europe, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United Nations (on European matters). Its task is to help the churches study church and society questions from a theological and social-ethical perspective, especially those with a European dimension, and to represent common positions of the member churches in their relations with political institutions working in Europe.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization is undergoing a restructuring process after 50 years of existence. The Conference of European Churches revision working group was established at the organization's General Assembly in July 2009 in Lyon, France, to undertake a revision of the organization, including its constitutional, legal and decision-making aspects. Before a final proposal for renewal is brought to its Assembly in 2013, a consultation with its member churches and commissions will be undertaken.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2010, the Church and Society Commission of the organization promoted nuclear disarmament as one of its priorities. Very concretely, the Commission set out policy analysis and recommendations concerning European Union policy towards the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Five members of the Commission's expert group took part in the Conference, which was held in New York from 3 to 28 May. The Commission's work in this area was part of the churches' global nuclear disarmament campaign. Furthermore, in 2009 during the Swedish Presidency of the European Union, the Commission took part in the advocacy work of the Swedish churches vis-à-vis the European Union and called for greater European responsibility for improving the ethical criteria and control of arms trade, including the efforts to achieve an international arms trade treaty.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

In addressing climate change at the global level and in particular vis-à-vis the United Nations, European churches and the organization are part of the global coalition of churches operating under the umbrella of the World Council of Churches. The organization has participated in and has contributed to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. Outcomes of the Conference were commented on in the statement of the organization's Central Committee in December. Representatives from the organization's member churches participated at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancún, Mexico, in December 2010. Their participation was organized under the umbrella of the World Council of Churches. In the human rights area, the Commission's human rights secretary participated in the Sixth United Nations Advocacy Week of the World Council of Churches, held in Geneva from 27 September to 1 October 2010.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization's Church and Society Commission has developed relations with the office of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. The Commission's human rights secretary provides the office with data related to the violations of the freedom of religion or belief. Several issues were taken up by the

Special Rapporteur, such as violations of the freedom of religion or belief in Cyprus, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

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

The organization maintains its campaign related to the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. The Human Rights Prayer, written on the basis of the Declaration's articles, is translated into nine European languages and is in the process of translation into Romani. Its Church and Society Commission is finalizing its human rights training manual, which aims to strengthen European human rights education and has the goal of equipping the 125 member churches and 43 associate organizations when dealing with human rights. The project is supported by the human rights churches expert network across Europe. The Commission also issues recommendations on how to combat poverty and social exclusion in the European Union. The Church Action on Labour and Life network was created from the aim of working on the eradication of poverty across Europe. The organization and the Latin American Council of Churches have started dialogue on how to eradicate poverty and social exclusion.

7. Conscience and Peace Tax International

Special, 1999

Introduction

Conscience and Peace Tax International was established at the 1994 International Conference on War Tax Resistance and Peace Tax Campaigns as a global organization to work at the international level for recognition of the right of conscientious objection to taxation which funds military expenditure. It obtained special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in 1999.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's aim is to obtain recognition of the right of conscientious objection to paying taxes for armaments, war preparation and war conduct. More broadly, it supports all forms of conscientious objection to military service, militarism and war. The organization engages with the international community in order to develop international standards to support its aims. It acts as a link between the national movements that address this issue and facilitates their access to international organizations.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization's representatives have participated in conferences specifically designed to spread knowledge of international standards on conscientious objection to military service, in Istanbul, Turkey (January 2007), Minsk (May 2010) and Bogotá and Barrancabermeja, Colombia (June 2010). The organization has also actively supported the initiative for a United Nations declaration on the human right

to peace, and its representatives participated in the conference in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, at which the Santiago Declaration on the Human Right to Peace was drafted (December 2010).

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization's representatives participated in all sessions of the Human Rights Council from the fourth (March 2007) to the fifteenth (September-October 2010) sessions. A written statement on conscientious objection to military service was submitted at the tenth session (March 2009). The organization was also a signatory of joint written statements at the fifth session (June 2007) on a global campaign for a declaration on the human right to peace and the sixth session ("Peace as a solidarity right: a legal approach", "Peace and development as solidarity rights: a legal assessment"). It also made oral statements at the tenth session (March 2009) jointly with Friends World Committee for Consultation and at the twelfth session (September 2009) and co-sponsored a joint oral statement at the sixth session (September 2007) on the review, rationalization and improvement of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. The organization has also actively participated in the universal periodic review process of the Council. It contributed "stakeholder information" for the reviews of Colombia, Israel, Serbia, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan (third session); Azerbaijan, Canada and the Russian Federation (fourth session); Chile (fifth session); Cyprus and Eritrea (sixth session); Angola and Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (seventh session); Armenia, Belarus and Turkey (eighth session) and the United States (ninth session). Oral statements were made on the occasion of the adoption of the reports on Colombia, Israel and Turkmenistan (tenth session); Chile (twelfth session); and Belarus and Turkey (fifteenth session). In conjunction with its role in the Committee on Freedom of Religion and Belief of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, the organization was involved in setting up side events at the seventh, tenth and thirteenth sessions, in which the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief had a dialogue with civil society representatives. Its representatives also participated in the first and fifth sessions of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization's representatives attended all sessions of the Human Rights Committee (in Geneva and New York) from the 90th (July 2007) to the 100th (October 2010) sessions. During that period, submissions were made to the Committee on conscientious objection to military service and related issues in some 45 reporting States. In October 2010, the organization was one of five non-governmental organizations invited to address the special meeting in recognition of the Human Rights Committee's 100th session. It has also been instrumental in bringing representatives of national non-governmental organizations in Colombia, Israel and the Russian Federation to Geneva to brief the Human Rights Committee and in arranging meetings with relevant OHCHR personnel. It participated with other non-governmental organizations in setting up informal briefings for the Committee on the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (July 2008), on conscientious objection to military service (October 2009) and on Colombia and Israel (July 2010). Since June 2008, the organization has held the secretaryship of the Committee on Freedom of Religion and Belief (Geneva), a

sub-committee of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations Special Committee on Human Rights, which exists to support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief. In May 2007, the organization participated in meetings between local human rights activists and OHCHR in Bogotá and Medellín, Colombia. The organization's representatives have also attended sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to which submissions were made in January 2010 on Colombia and Israel.

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

The organization's work is in the field of human rights, for which no specific Millennium Development Goals were set, although human rights featured strongly in the Millennium Declaration. The work described above has served to promote the broader Millennium agenda and has most relevance to the specific goals of gender equality and environmental sustainability.

8. Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations

Special, 1947

Introduction

The Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations is a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. It has served in that capacity since 1947 and has representation in more than 50 countries through three constituent organizations: B'nai B'rith International, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. The organization also has an accredited presence at the United Nations offices in Geneva and Vienna, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in Santiago, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in Paris.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization is primarily concerned with humanitarian and human rights issues and advances its goals through advocacy at the United Nations.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes during the reporting period that would have an impact on the organization's orientation or scope of work.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization has been actively represented in various United Nations events and forums. One of the constituent organizations sent a high-level delegation to the annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations on the theme "Reaffirming human rights for all: the Universal Declaration at 60", held in Paris from 3 to 5 September 2008. The organization submitted proposals for workshops and breakout sessions and offered suggestions for speakers. The organization's representatives also attended the

annual conferences on the theme “Climate change: how it impacts us all” in New York from 5 to 7 September 2007; and “For peace and development, disarm now” in Mexico City from 9 to 11 September 2009. A large delegation of its representatives also attended the Durban Review Conference, held from 20 to 24 April 2009 in Geneva. The organization’s representatives also attended the meetings of the Preparatory Committee in Geneva prior to the Conference.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization was represented at the highest levels at the Holocaust and United Nations Outreach Programme’s annual Holocaust commemoration, held on 27 January (the International Day of Commemoration of the Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust) in the General Assembly Hall during all of the reporting years. In addition, one of the constituent organizations has annually held a side event at the United Nations to complement the commemoration in the Assembly. The events during the reporting period have focused on: Holocaust denial; Holocaust education; the rescued and the rescuers; and interreligious responses to the Holocaust. This day is also observed by constituent groups in other United Nations bodies in Paris, Geneva and Vienna and throughout Latin America.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization engages directly with the Member States and United Nations officials through two primary programmes: a delegation to the Human Rights Council and an advocacy conference. The annual delegation to the regular session of the Human Rights Council is usually led by the President and the Executive Vice-President. Delegates meet with over 30 ambassadors and OHCHR representatives to discuss issues of priority before the Council. The organization’s representatives also give oral statements before the Council at these sessions on a number of agenda items. Its representatives in Geneva give oral statements at the other regular Council sessions and at relevant special sessions. One of the constituent organizations hosts United Nations advocacy days, which bring together leaders from around the world for briefings on issues of priority for the organization at the United Nations and to advocate on these issues in smaller meetings with numerous ambassadors and United Nations officials in New York. The event was held in May 2007 and December 2008. The conference represents a valuable opportunity for the Jewish community to engage in dialogue with the United Nations on various issues of concern or mutual interest.

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

Humanitarian assistance continues to be a key component of the programme of work of the organization. During the reporting period, one of the constituent organizations funded projects in the following countries: Chad, Chile, China, Greece, Haiti, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar and Peru. “Communities in crisis” in Argentina, which provides donations of medicine to those in need, has been an ongoing aid project.

9. Cross-Cultural Solutions

Special, 2003

Introduction

Cross-Cultural Solutions operates short-term volunteer programmes in 12 countries and 19 programme locations, which include Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Morocco, Peru, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania. The mission of the organization is to operate volunteer programmes around the world in partnership with sustainable community initiatives, bringing people together to work side by side while sharing perspectives and fostering cultural understanding. Cross-Cultural Solutions is an international not-for-profit organization with no political or religious affiliations. Since 1 January 2006, its programmes have expanded to include Morocco and South Africa. The organization has also expanded its offices into Canada. It has a partnership with CARE, as well as several corporate partnerships and university partnerships. The organization has provided volunteer experiences for groups such as Girl Scouts and has collaborated on travel industry developments such as Travelocity's Travel for Good programme. It has been featured on such media outlets as Time, CNN, Today, New York Times and Newsweek and has received awards for video production in travel and Internet marketing categories. The organization strives to promote global awareness and volunteerism within these partner industries, as well as within its staff. It offers one-week Insight Abroad opportunities to all staff members worldwide. The organization also supports global volunteerism in low-income communities and has donated programmes each year to Global Potential, a national programme that challenges low-income high school students to develop character and leadership.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The vision of the organization is a world where people value cultures different from their own, are aware of global issues and are empowered to effect positive change. The organization's values are shared humanity, respect and integrity.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

International Volunteer Week was observed every year by the organization. In addition, the organization participates in the AIDS Walk on an annual basis. It has also participated in events led by the Building Bridges Coalition and the Brookings Institution and in events promoting volunteerism led by the White House. It also works in partnership with local organizations, where its staff participates in domestic service work.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

2007: United Nations Film Festival at the New York Film Academy in New York (9 September); "Offering consolation" at the United Nations in New York (October);

Model United Nations in Panama (November); and membership at the Young Professionals for International Cooperation programme.

2008-2009: United Nations Film Festival in New York (October).

2010: Mobility International USA meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Cross-Cultural Solutions has worked with the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) to promote volunteerism through the Building Bridges Coalition and has spoken at several conferences with UNV.

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

- **Goals 1 and 2.** The organization sent volunteers to 12 countries in Asia, Europe, the Americas and Africa to work with communities in need of support in education and basic needs. Its volunteers contributed by working in classrooms teaching English to children, working in day-care centres for low-income families and helping in homes for the disabled and elderly. In specific placements volunteers work in soup kitchens and provide nutritional guidance.
- **Goal 3.** Approximately 80 per cent of its volunteers are women and the values of the organization promote empowerment. Its volunteers work side by side with local people on community-led initiatives to empower women.
- **Goal 6.** The organization provided volunteers to organizations, orphanages and clinics in Brazil, Costa Rica, South Africa, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania to help those who are infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. Volunteers assisted with campaigns, outreach and providing basic needs.
- **Goal 8.** The organization has worked with the Brookings Institution on an initiative to double the number of international volunteers from the United States. The organization provides support to initiatives such as best practices in the field of international volunteerism, the introduction of a bill to congress to provide fellowships to low-income volunteers and data for a longitudinal study of the effects of international volunteerism on the communities and the volunteers. It has sent over 3,000 volunteers in-country each year since 2007.

10. Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation

Special, 1995

Introduction

The Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation is a multidisciplinary research, cultural and development facilitative organization engaged in creating awareness of various issues related to the Himalayan and trans-Himalayan regions in South and Central Asia or parts thereof, including issues connected with its environment, biodiversity, regional development, human resources, history, culture, art and literature, social structures, economies, human rights and peace processes, thus contributing to sustainable development and the promotion of human, educational and economic advancement of the peoples of the region, besides preserving and enriching their rich and varied cultural heritage.

Aims and purposes of the organization

- To initiate, coordinate and promote the study of various problems of the Himalayan and trans-Himalayan region, from the Hindu Kush in the northwest to Arunachal Pradesh in the east, as well as in the adjoining regions of South and Central Asia, including problems with regard to its environment, geography, living and non-living resources, art and culture, history, society, economies, geopolitics and human rights.
- To promote the cause of the preservation and promotion of cultural, literary and historical heritage of the Himalayan States of India.
- To encourage contact and exchange of knowledge and culture of the Himalayas and adjoining areas, with a view to promoting national integration and social justice.
- To undertake, organize and facilitate the holding of conferences, seminars, lectures, cultural shows and workshops.
- To sponsor member researchers in different literary, academic or technical institutions in the country or abroad for study, training or specific research projects.
- To provide both financial and technical assistance to individuals or groups of individuals engaged or interested in taking up specific research projects.
- To cater to the needs of writers, research scholars and Government and academic institutions by providing information, documentation and reference services.
- To undertake, facilitate and provide for the publication of occasional papers/ monographs, a research journal and a newsletter, as well as standard works, original texts, translations, commentaries or even the manuscripts completed by scholars, that bear relevance to the aims and objectives of the organization.
- To take up the task of identifying, acquiring, editing and publishing old records or manuscripts that would throw light on the history, literature and cultural heritage of the Himalayan and adjoining regions.

- To establish an appropriate organizational network or chapters in different parts of the country or even abroad and to strive for the provision of all possible amenities, including library and hostel facilities, to scholars interested in promoting the cause of the organization.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Through its publications and activities, the organization has been disseminating the United Nations goals and programmes besides providing a specialized input and expert analysis on a wide range of issues related to the United Nations programmes, thus serving as a link between the local, national and regional deliberations and the United Nations system.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, representatives participated in the fourth, sixth to eighth, tenth, twelfth, thirteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva and took active part in various activities of the Council and in the parallel meetings and side events of the non-governmental organizations.

The organization made substantial contributions to the discussions related to the International Day of Peace (Geneva, 19 September 2008); the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (11 March 2009); using the universal periodic review to promote the rights of the child (12 March 2009).

The organization submitted written statements on economic, social and cultural rights and human rights and terrorism to the Human Rights Council (see A/HRC/9/NGO/55 and A/HRC/10/NGO/12).

The organization held seminars/open dialogues in Geneva on religion, culture and harmony in South Asia (23 March 2007); war on terrorism and human security (16 March 2009); the theme “War against terrorism and human security: consequences of the failure of State machinery and policies” (24 September 2009); human rights of ethnic and religious minorities in South and Central Asia (23 September 2010); the impact of interreligious and intercommunal violence on human rights values (28 September 2010).

The organization participated in the Conference on Renewable Energy organized by the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 11 June 2009.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization published a book entitled *Drugs Production and Trafficking in Afghanistan* as part of the United Nations campaign against drug trafficking in the region.

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

The organization continued its grass-roots action programme in the Jammu Hills in accordance with the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005-2015, for identifying, conserving and revitalizing the local water bodies, *baolis* or stepwells, to revive the traditional water harvesting system through community participation.

The organization has been publishing a quarterly journal on Himalayan and Central Asian Studies, which has been highlighting the debates, resolutions and statements of United Nations bodies on issues related to the organization’s area/subject of concern. As such, the journal covered in detail the proceedings of the first session of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva. The organization brought out a special issue (July-September 2010) of its journal devoted to the problem of drug trafficking in South and Central Asia. It released the journal to coincide with the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June 2010 in New Delhi. In keeping with the importance attached by the Commission on Sustainable Development to the study of mountain ecocultural systems and landlocked developing countries, the organization brought out special issues on Buryatia, Russian Federation (July-December 2007), Kazakhstan (July-December 2008), Khakassia, Russian Federation (April-June 2009) and Siberia (January-June 2009) to preserve and promote the indigenous cultures and heritage and bring into focus the unique social, cultural and economic concerns of these landlocked regions in Eurasia. The organization also published a special issue (January-March 2007) devoted to the preservation and sustainable development of wetlands and water management in India.

The organization participated in the International Conference on Water-Related Disaster Reduction in Dushanbe on 27 and 28 June 2008.

Representatives have been taking active part in the United Nations activities related to the preservation and promotion of indigenous cultural heritage, the environment and mountain ecocultural systems, sustainable development/management of water resources, children’s and women’s issues, human rights education, studies of the Silk Route and landlocked developing countries in South and Central Asia.

11. Inner Trip Reiyukai International

Special, 2007

Introduction

Inner Trip Reiyukai International is a non-governmental organization engaged primarily in educational projects of significant permanent value with a hands-on approach to mobilizing public opinion for peacebuilding and a proactive approach to developing values education programmes.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to contribute to the betterment of the world through:

- **Education.** It supports the wider distribution of information technology and training; the promotion of values education to teach respect and understanding

for all; the empowerment of women through education and technology; the development of programmes that build self-esteem in adolescents; and programmes that aim to provide universal access to education for all.

- **Peace.** It promotes multifaith and multicultural dialogue as a vehicle for peacebuilding and promotes peace education curriculum development.
- **Youth initiatives.** It trains youth leaders in peacebuilding and development issues; promotes increased youth participation in activities that support the Millennium Development Goals; and provides tools and training to empower youth as future leaders.
- **Children’s initiatives.** It supports programmes that provide health care for AIDS victims and those that promote human rights for children.
- **Cultural restoration.** It restores sacred cultural sites as a means to uplift and inspire communities and preserve historical roots.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has taken the initiative to provide support to celebrate the Day of Vesak pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/115. The celebrations have been co-organized by the organization for the past three years in Bangkok, coinciding with Buddha’s birthday. In 2010, it was held from 23 to 25 May. The objective has been to use the occasion of the Day of Vesak as a vehicle for mobilizing the Buddhist community worldwide to help address the challenges facing humanity, with a focus on climate change, sustainable and social development, education, and peacebuilding. Commemorating the Day of Vesak is a time for honouring the key Buddhist teachings of compassion, interconnection and service and for developing programmes to help better the global community. Simultaneous educational exhibitions were held during the past three years and commemorative volumes were brought out on subjects of global importance, including on such themes as “Buddhist contribution to building a just, democratic and civil society” (2008); “Buddhist approach to political conflict and peace development, economic crisis and environmental crisis” (2009); and “Global recovery: the Buddhist perspective values and life skills” (2010).

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

To carry forward its research on spirituality and for networking among like-minded non-governmental organizations, the organization attended the annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations on the theme “Reaffirming human rights for all: the Universal Declaration at 60” held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris from 31 August 2008 to September 2008. New insights were gained on the connection between human dignity, spirituality and human rights. At the Conference, the close link between following the tenets of spirituality and human rights was highlighted: human rights can be achieved only when there is sensitivity to the spiritual aspects of living. To support the United Nations Climate Change Conference that took place in Copenhagen in December

2009, the organization co-organized an event with the participation of faith leaders from different countries strongly affected by climate change.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Along with the United Nations Global Youth Leadership Summit, in 2010, the organization provided financial support to the United Nations initiative to promote citizens' participatory monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals.

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

In keeping with its objectives, the organization has been promoting a project for the education of street children in India. These children are totally neglected and marginalized by community welfare schemes. Preschool projects have been taken up in Zakhira, Dwarka and other slum areas of New Delhi. Hundreds of very poor children who had not gone to school because of poverty and neglectful upbringing and, consequently, fallen prey to substance abuse have benefited from the project. Aside from curricular education to facilitate their entry into the formal school system, the children are being taught the values of hygiene, respect for surroundings, social values and decorum in society. A computer literacy project has also been undertaken in the South Delhi slum area for these street children.

12. International Association for Volunteer Effort

Special, 1987

Introduction

The International Association for Volunteer Effort is the only global network of individuals, non-profit organizations and business that exists solely to promote, support and celebrate volunteering in the many ways it happens throughout the world. It is the way in which leaders of volunteering demonstrate their solidarity with the growing worldwide volunteer community. Founded in 1970 by volunteers from throughout the world who shared a vision of volunteering as a way to build bridges of understanding among people of all communities, the organization has as its mission to foster a culture of volunteering worldwide in order to build a more just, peaceful, inclusive and compassionate world.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization works towards its mission in a number of ways, including convening its World Volunteer Conference every two years, regional conferences in Latin America, Asia and the Pacific and the Arab nations and meetings in Africa, Europe and North America; engaging in knowledge development and dissemination; and engaging in advocacy to build the value of volunteering with international non-governmental organizations, business, the media and Governments.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2006, the organization successfully launched the Global Corporate Volunteer Council, a network of leaders of volunteering in global companies. At present, there are almost 30 global companies which are part of the Council.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Most of the organization's contact with the United Nations is through UNV. The organization has collaborated with UNV on a number of its regular world and regional conferences throughout its history. In the past two years UNV staff have participated in the organization's conferences as keynote speakers and workshop presenters. A number of its members work with UNDP country offices throughout the world.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization has a volunteer who regularly attends meetings at United Nations Headquarters in New York. In addition, members from throughout the world attend worldwide meetings, specifically the conferences on women, as well as the annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Because the organization focuses on volunteering, it works regularly with UNV and has been invited to their meetings in preparation for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers and the State of the World Volunteerism Report and their information collection meetings for their submissions to the General Assembly.

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

The organization's membership is worldwide and largest in many developing countries, where the focus of its work is on some aspect of the Millennium Development Goals. At its world and regional convening, the organization regularly has workshops and other types of presentations on the Goals. Many of its corporate members focus on child labor, women's rights and health care. The organization is working on a meeting which will be in collaboration with UNV and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with one of its focuses being on sustainability and the Goals.

13. International Bureau for Epilepsy

Special, 2007

Introduction

The International Bureau for Epilepsy is an international organization for national epilepsy organizations and other epilepsy organizations worldwide. The organization is represented in 92 countries around the world.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization exists to improve the social condition and quality of life of all people with epilepsy and those who care for them through five main goals focused on organization, support, communication, education and representation. To facilitate its activities, the organization aligns its members at the regional level, following the regional boundaries of the World Health Organization (WHO), in order to best

address issues relevant to particular regions. In addition, the organization is involved in a global campaign against epilepsy in partnership with WHO and the International League Against Epilepsy, which was launched in Geneva in 1997.

Significant changes in the organization

Since 2007, the organization's membership has continued to grow and develop. Its Promising Strategy programme has provided a limited level of funding to support more than 30 programmes in developing regions aimed at improving quality of life through educational, employment and legislation initiatives. Its members in North America and South America are working diligently with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) in an effort to have epilepsy included on its agenda for the coming period. In Europe in 2010, plans were put in place for the launch of an annual European Epilepsy Day, which would highlight the need for improvements in diagnosis and treatment for the 6 million people living with epilepsy in Europe. In tandem with this, a European Advocates for Epilepsy Working Group was developed in the European Parliament. The organization has increased knowledge and understanding of epilepsy through educational workshops, symposiums and presentations in regional and international congresses. Since 2007, congresses have been held in Australia, China, Colombia, Egypt, France, Hungary, Portugal, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and Uruguay. The organization's task forces on driving, governance and research have also had an impact on the knowledge and understanding of epilepsy.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization recognizes the particularly difficult problems faced by people with epilepsy in developing regions where access to diagnosis, medical care and availability of medication can affect detrimentally the lives of people with epilepsy. With the added problems of diseases that increase the risk of epilepsy, such as neurocysticercosis, it is accepted that in some African countries less than 10 per cent of people with epilepsy will receive even marginal care. Through the Global Campaign against Epilepsy established by the organization, WHO and the International League Against Epilepsy on the theme "Out of the shadows", a series of intervention projects, beginning with demonstration projects to establish the extent of the treatment gap, have been undertaken or are ongoing in Brazil, Cameroon, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Tajikistan and Zimbabwe. A manual for medical officers in Africa on epilepsy has been widely used and is about to be revised, the development of guidelines on the treatment of epilepsy in childhood and adolescence is nearing completion and a project on legislation is ongoing. In addition, the Promising Strategies programme has played a key role in helping people with epilepsy in developing countries to become self-sufficient.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization has not been able to attend any United Nations meeting in person, although it remains informed through the United Nations website and through information circulated. This is due to the low staff numbers working with the organization, a changeover of committees and associated elections, and limited availability of funds to support travel and associated costs. It is hoped that the organization will be able to attend at least one meeting in the next reporting period.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

As previously indicated, through its regional committees, the organization works closely with WHO and PAHO. Collaboration with WHO is done through the Global Campaign against Epilepsy. The organization is also in official relations with WHO. A series of workshops have been organized in Latin American countries in the past two years with the involvement of PAHO. The organization maintains close contact with the WHO regional offices. Regional reports on epilepsy in the Eastern Mediterranean and European regions were launched in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and Porto, Portugal, respectively, by WHO Regional Health Officers.

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

Support was provided through the Promising Strategies programme. The organization's membership in low-income countries is facilitated through its Solidarity Fund. The European Epilepsy Day has been created and will be observed annually on the second Monday of February, while the Latin American Epilepsy Day is celebrated annually on 9 September by the organization's members in South and Central America. The African Day for Epilepsy has also been created and is observed in several African countries, with very active participation by local associations. An International Epilepsy Day is being developed and it is hoped to launch it in 2012.

14. International Center for Not-for-Profit Law

Special, 2003

Introduction

The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law is an international non-governmental organization that promotes an enabling environment for civil society, public participation and philanthropy. Since 1992, the organization's projects have encompassed more than 100 countries.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization promotes a legal environment that strengthens civil society, public participation and philanthropy. It undertakes research, provides technical assistance, supports capacity-building, promotes academic initiatives and fosters networking. Its partners include representatives of non-governmental organizations, Government officials, representatives of multilateral institutions, the donor community, private lawyers and academics.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2010, the organization opened its Middle East/North Africa office in Jordan.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Through technical assistance, research and collaborative engagements, the organization advanced discussions on counter-terrorism; aid effectiveness; disaster response; the freedoms of assembly and association; volunteerism; and the legal

framework for non-governmental organizations. Notable activities include its partnership with the United Nations Office of Project Services on the Law on non-governmental organizations in Iraq and its engagement on legislation on non-governmental organizations in countries as diverse as Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Mongolia and Rwanda. UNV commissioned the organization in 2008 to conduct a global research study to consider trends and lessons in the development of volunteerism policies and legislation. In terms of disaster response, in 2009, at the invitation of the Government of China, the organization prepared a paper and delivered remarks in Beijing at the International Conference on the Social Mobilization Mechanism for Catastrophic Disasters and the Formulation of Emergency Laws and Regulations. Its online library contains over 2,900 documents from more than 100 countries. Among other publications, it maintains 35 country reports that assist grantmakers and their advisers with issues pertaining to cross-border philanthropy. The organization has conducted several international fellowship programmes and has worked with universities to train students on legal issues pertaining to non-governmental organizations.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization delivered remarks at an expert working group meeting on preventing abuse of the non-profit sector for the purposes of terrorist financing organized by the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate in London in January 2010. Since 2009, the Executive Director of the organization's European affiliate, the European Center for Not-for-Profit Law, has participated in the annual meeting of the Civil Society Advisory Committee to UNDP in New York. The organization participated in several UNV meetings related to a global study on volunteerism in 2008 and an International Society for Third-Sector Research conference in Turkey in 2010. In 2009, it participated in meetings on amendments to the Law on Non-Commercial Organizations in Kyrgyzstan organized by the Parliamentary Committee on Constitutional Legislation with the financial support of UNDP and the European Union.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

UNV commissioned the organization to do a global research study to consider trends and lessons in the development of supportive volunteerism policies and legislation. In 2009, the organization and UNDP published a law primer entitled "The role of legal reform in supporting civil society: an introductory primer". In 2007 and 2008, the organization completed an assessment report on the legal framework affecting non-governmental organizations for a UNDP-supported project in Mauritius. In 2010, the organization was contracted by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States to develop a comparative analysis and handbook on non-State models of social service delivery. In 2007 and 2008, the organization served as a short-term international expert consultant to the UNDP Action for Cooperation and Trust and was commissioned to assess the current situation in Cyprus. In 2007, its affiliate office in Bulgaria collaborated with UNICEF to prepare a legal analysis on how to establish a centre for health services. In Tajikistan, the organization participated in training on human rights for Government officials sponsored by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees during the reporting period. In addition, it was actively

engaged in the conceptualization of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

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

The organization helps to create an enabling environment for non-governmental organizations to support the Millennium Development Goals, working around the world on this issue. The organization also provides information to the foundation community through United States International Grantmaking to help it meet legal requirements when engaging in international philanthropy.

15. International Planned Parenthood Federation (Western Hemisphere region)

Special, 2003

Introduction

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (Western Hemisphere region) is a network of 40 sexual health and reproductive health organizations across North America, Latin America and the Caribbean. Its member associations provide 19.4 million services each year. These range from sexuality education, contraceptive services and prenatal care to HIV testing, abortion-related care and screening for gender-based violence.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization envisages a world in which all women, men and young people have access to the information and services they need; a world in which sexuality is recognized both as a natural and precious aspect of life and as a fundamental human right; a world in which choices are fully respected and stigma and discrimination have no place. The organization aims to improve the quality of life of individuals by campaigning for sexual and reproductive health and rights through advocacy and services, especially for poor and vulnerable people. It defends the right of all young people to enjoy their sexual lives free from ill health, unwanted pregnancy, violence and discrimination.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization participated in the work of the Council by attending a number of key conferences and promoted the work of the United Nations through its participation in the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Population and Development. Over the past four years, the organization was able to uphold strong Government commitments towards sexual and reproductive health in the elimination of discrimination against the girl child, financing for gender equality, and the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including in the context of care-giving and HIV/AIDS. Also, during the session of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2008, the

organization facilitated the participation of member associations from Latin America and the Caribbean (including Brazil, Puerto Rico and Venezuela), as well as New Zealand and Sweden.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the International AIDS Conference in 2010 in Vienna and sponsored the participation of six young people from the Latin America and Caribbean region to attend the conference and the Youth Force meetings beforehand. As part of the International Year of Youth, the organization had a strong presence at the World Youth Conference in Mexico and sponsored the participation of seven young people from the Latin America and Caribbean region to attend the Conference. In 2008, the organization's Senior International Advocacy Coordinator began representing the Federation at the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) as the North American delegate for the delegation of non-governmental organizations on its Programme Coordinating Board. This experience also helped to inform the Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign's advocacy strategy in setting up a women's entity within the United Nations system.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

An important contribution to the United Nations in the past four years has been the organization's involvement representing the Federation as a global focal point for the Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign. The organization, together with groups such as the Women's Environment and Development Organization, Center for Women's Global Leadership, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, Association for Women's Rights in Development, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, has contributed to the design and thinking behind the establishment of this new entity. The organization has been instrumental in gaining Latin American countries' support for this process, encouraging Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay to show their leadership in this process. Moreover, the organization has hosted strategy meetings every year before the Commission on the Status of Women, gathering women's support from all over the world in convincing their Governments of the urgency in moving forward with the establishment of a women's entity at the United Nations. Also, the organization has been involved in several initiatives advocating for stronger sexual and reproductive health programming within the international financial institutions. As a starting point, in 2008, when the World Bank's Health, Nutrition and Population strategy dropped reproductive health, including family planning, entirely from its agenda, the organization in collaboration with a number of civil society organizations mounted a quick response and action campaign. The organization, in conjunction with the Federation's European network, pioneered a project in 12 countries of Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe on holding Governments accountable to their sexual and reproductive health commitments. The organization advocated in 2009 to influence policy guidance, as well as programmatic work at the country level, asking the question of how those programmes look at women. It was ultimately successful in establishing a task force on the issue, which met in October 2009. Women were officially added to the agenda, as the need for improved sexual and reproductive health globally was recognized.

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

The organization, in collaboration with the Federation's central office, played an important role at the forty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development in ensuring that a strong resolution on the contribution of the International Conference on Population and Development to the Millennium Development Goals was adopted. The resolution reasserts the human rights of women and men to have control over their sexuality, reinforcing additional critical issues such as a new commitment to comprehensive education on sexuality and gender equality; access to male and female condoms and reproductive health services for adolescents; the recognition of target 5b of the Millennium Development Goals on universal access to reproductive health; the right to decide the number and spacing of children; and preventing and addressing, as a matter of priority, deaths and complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. This last issue is a vital commitment because Goal 5 on maternal health is the least likely to be achieved although it is crucial for the achievement of the other Goals.
