



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 September 2011

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

2012 regular session

30 January-8 February, and 17 February 2012

Quadrennial reports for the period 2007-2010 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
1. ABANTU for Development	2
2. Academy for Future Science	3
3. All-Russian Social Fund “The Russian Children Foundation”	5
4. Antiviolence Center.	6
5. Arab Lawyers Union.	8
6. Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress.	9
7. Asayesefid White Cane.	11
8. Asian Centre for Human Rights	13
9. Asian Centre for Organization Research and Development.	14
10. Asian People’s Disability Alliance.	16
11. Asociatia Pro Democratia	17
12. Associated Country Women of the World	19
13. Association for Democratic Initiatives	21
14. Association for Progressive Communications.	22
15. Association of Third World Studies	24



1. ABANTU for Development

Special, 1999

Introduction

The organization is a gender and policy advocacy organization set up in 1991 to promote development in Africa from a gender perspective. Its West Africa regional office opened in Accra in 1999. There is also a country office in Kaduna, Nigeria. The regional office for Eastern Africa is located in Nairobi. The word *abantu* means “people” in many languages in Eastern and Southern Africa. The term refers to the organization’s commitment to addressing inequalities and disparities between women and men in society.

Aims and purposes of the organization

There have been no changes.

Significant changes in the organization

Since its establishment, the organization has grown to become an influential, continent-wide women’s rights organization that promotes gender justice for women in thematic areas such as governance, peace and climate change, with poverty and information and communications technology as cross-cutting issues. Since 2004, each of the regional offices has become decentralized and an autonomously funded entity, leading to a sense of connectedness with issues at the subregional and local levels. The organization’s philosophy of “lifting others while we climb” has enabled it to offer training and capacity-building programmes to benefit over 500,000 women across the continent. Other initiatives that have had significant impacts include:

- Production of “The women’s manifesto for Ghana”, a political but non-partisan document that outlines key issues of concern to women and makes demands along specific timelines to address them
- “Health caravan”, an initiative created by the Eastern Africa office and aimed at the African Union to influence continental/national policymakers on the negative impacts of maternal mortality and the need to act to reduce such incidences as a matter of priority
- Development of a strong cadre of gender activists working assiduously to influence policies from a gender perspective as a result of their own strengthened capacities

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization’s contribution to the United Nations is through the following:

- Advocating for the implementation of United Nations mandates at the country and subregional levels
- Undertaking specific assignments on behalf of the United Nations
- Organizing programmes to benefit women at the local level

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization has actually participated in the United Nations processes since its inception. It has actively participated in the processes of the Commission on the Status of Women and has worked with other networks and coalitions to organize side events during meetings of the Commission. Many of the women who have developed their capacities through the organization's programmes also actively participate in other United Nations processes with the intention of bringing a gender perspective into such forums. Those processes include the Commission on Sustainable Development, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. The organization also utilizes its consultative status to benefit other non-governmental organizations to enable them to participate directly in United Nations processes or indirectly through information-sharing events, after meetings of the Commission.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization is implementing a gender and climate change project with support from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). It is also working collaboratively with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on its Africa adaptation programme. The organization delivers train-the-trainer programmes to benefit policymakers in Africa on gender and climate change.

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

- Promotion of women's rights and gender equality under Goal 1
- Promotion of gender issues in climate change under Goal 7
- Coalition-building efforts with other civil society groups on all other Goals

Additional information

The organization is totally committed to United Nations processes on women's rights and gender equality.

2. Academy for Future Science

Special, 2003

Introduction

The organization is a non-profit organization based in Johannesburg, South Africa. However, the outreach of its work extends not only throughout South Africa and Lesotho but globally.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's mission statement continues according to its 2002 submission, covering a broad scope of activities aimed at advancing an understanding of science and human experience, as well as helping individuals and communities.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2009, the organization also became associated with the United Nations Department of Public Information.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization's global outreach focused on environmental and educational conferences and forums in countries where it has worked. In addition to South Africa and Lesotho, it contributed to environmental and educational work in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Switzerland. It was in direct dialogue on water management with a member of the United Nations delegation in Lesotho, which regularly attends conferences of the Commission on Sustainable and Development, thus enabling the organization to enter into dialogue both at home and in New York on issues such as water purification, agriculture and practical education and training in water purification and agricultural growing technologies. The organization was a principle participant and major sponsor of the Green Phoenix ecology conference, held in Switzerland in 2010, where leaders, including from Egypt, the United States of America and Europe, met to discuss the present and future positive environmental possibilities that are and can be implemented in practical terms.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization continued to attend the annual meetings of the Commission for Sustainable Development. In May 2007, it sent representatives to attend the fifteenth session of the Commission, held at United Nations Headquarters, to learn more about effective "partnerships" for sustainable development.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In May 2008, two representatives of the organization gave a talk on the theme "Environmental change: what to be prepared for" to members of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), providing data and an overview of the organization's work, as well as extensive film reports on new research technologies documenting the challenges of climate change. The talk was given as part of a series of events sponsored by UNEP on the theme "New strategies related to climate change". Representatives of the organization presented a detailed overview of its projects in agriculture and with the Xavante people of Brazil. The organization sponsored a workshop in association with the sixtieth annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations conference, held at Headquarters from 5 to 7 September 2007, at which members of the organization from Colombia, South Africa and the United States of America presented position papers on the theme "Crisis on water: new strategies related to climate change".

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

The organization continues to carry out its mission in education and seminar training in support of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Specifically, it has worked to eradicate poverty and hunger by working with the Zulu people, by providing them with local ways to create food through small-scale agriculture. It has also worked with its associates in Mexico to create a multitiered

agricultural backyard food growing programme to teach people how to grow food and avoid hunger. However, its best achievement continues to be its 2003-2010 outreach programme in Brazil, through which it supports an educational programme for the Xavante Indians of Mato Grosso, Brazil. The organization also provided them with sewing machines and technology for rice production. Regarding education, the organization continues to provide food, shelter, textbooks and computer equipment to allow 25 Xavante children in Brazil to attend a public school in a nearby community. It has worked with three farming environments in South Africa to teach sustainable farming techniques so that the soil stays healthy and is not overused. It has also partnered with associates in Brazil and Mexico to encourage additional organic farming and community-based agriculture.

3. All-Russian Social Fund “The Russian Children Foundation”

Special, 2003

Introduction

Aims and purposes of the organization

The main objective of the organization is to protect children’s rights and implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Russian Federation; to emphasize and strengthen the significance of the family and the social status of childhood; to reinforce public representation of childhood at all levels of legislative and executive branches in the Russian Federation; to encourage a shift in public consciousness towards the upbringing of our younger generation; to highlight personal responsibilities for the negative attitude towards the abuse of children and children’s rights; and to help form a solid social basis for children’s upbringing, education, leisure and interaction. The organization provides moral and financial support to gifted children in different fields, and helps orphans, children with no parental care, disabled children, and children from both the Russian Federation and abroad who are victims of war, ethnic conflicts, natural disasters or epidemics.

Significant changes in the organization

In October 2006, the organization was renamed All Russian Social Charity Fund “The Russian Children Foundation”. While the goals and objectives of the organization remain the same, the amendments to its charter adopted at that time and ratified with a State registration certificate by the Russian Ministry of Justice in March 2007 broaden its scope of charity activities.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In March 2009, at the initiative of the Chairman of the organization, the Social Council for Children Culture was set up within the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation. Following the results of its work, the Social Council adopted a document on the protection of children at risk by means of modern culture at special children organizations.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives of the organization participated in the International Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World, especially

focusing on orphans, children with no parental care and children in severe need of adults' help. In the course of attaining the goals of the International Decade, the organization broadened its experience of childhood and motherhood protection, helped to shape microcultural and tolerant views and attitudes among younger citizens of the Russian Federation, and helped to join public and Government efforts to solve the issues of childhood. At the end of that programme, the organization signed a petition calling on the United Nations to organize a second International Decade in support of childhood in 2011-2020. The organization works in partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to settle issues of violations of the rights of children and minors. It is also a member of federal penitentiary service public council.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

There has been no cooperation with United Nations bodies since the organization has been primarily engaged in promoting and carrying out 26 long-term charity projects to improve the quality of life, health, education and moral and spiritual education of the younger generation in the Russian Federation.

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

Goal 1

During the reporting period, the organization's programmes in 72 regions across the Russian Federation provided one-time support to children and families to help poor graduates of orphanages and disabled children, and to give one-time charity payments to orphans. The total funds spent on improving living conditions of socially unprotected children in the Russian Federation within the framework of the project entitled "Urgent social help" was 11,012,075 euros. Under its "General agreements" programme, the organization actively participates in developing regional laws on childhood that are supposed to leave no gaps in the legislative environment for children. During the reporting period, such efforts resulted in the passing of laws on family children's homes in the Belgorod and Kirov regions.

Goal 3

The organization also implemented medical and social projects aimed at giving organizational and financial support to individual children for their medical treatment and rehabilitation, as well as at providing financial assistance for children's medical and rehabilitation institutions. During the reporting period, the organization and its regional branches carried out a range of medical programmes, providing assistance to 5,000 children in need at a cost of 6,875,000 euros.

4. Antiviolence Center

Special, 2003

Introduction

There have been no changes.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization is dedicated to fighting violence against women and their children and promoting the rights of women in all sectors of society. It was created in 1985 as a non-profit volunteer association and since that time has grown into a fully functioning centre for battered women.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2009 and 2010, the organization was part of the European Women's Lobby working group, which focused mainly on the preparations for the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the United Nations Gender Equality Architecture Reform campaign.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization participated in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies and major conferences, and in other United Nations meetings on the topic of women, especially on violence against women. In 2010, representatives of the organization took part in meetings on the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The organization was also represented at parallel events and meetings of other non-governmental organizations, on concerns such as the age of representatives, bringing young women's voices inside the United Nations and having more young men and boys on the side of women to avoid and prevent violence against women.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

During the reporting period, the organization cooperated with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the field of violence against women. In 2007, it invited representatives of OHCHR to prepare a workshop for lawyers who represent anti-violence centres in Italy, based on material and jurisprudence of the Human Rights Council, the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and general mission reports of rapporteurs, to help them monitor the Italian State and make it accountable before the Commission on the Status of Women and the Special Rapporteur on issues of violence against women.

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

The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in the Parma region of Italy and neighbouring areas. Actions undertaken during the reporting period are described below.

Goal 3, target 4

The organization held training sessions on gender equality addressed to 2,000 high school students and 500 lower school students. It also distributed 15,000 condoms to trafficked girls working in prostitution, 300 copies of health information material

and 700 copies of sexual disease information material. The organization also held activities in support of the global principles of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, on 25 November.

5. Arab Lawyers Union

Special, 1971

Introduction

There have been no changes.

Aims and purposes of the organization

There have been no changes.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization focused its activities on promoting lawyers and bar associations in the Arab world and strengthening relations with lawyers and bar associations all over the world. As part of those activities, meetings were held on a regular basis with all Arab bar associations in one of the Arab countries (the organization's twice-yearly permanent bureau meetings); joint activities were held with similar international non-governmental organizations, including a joint conference with the Turkish Bar Association and a seminar with the International Association of Democratic Lawyers. The organization also held its own workshops and training courses for Arab lawyers, as well as seminars on issues of a professional, human rights, political or cultural nature. Seminars were conducted on the Goldstone report and on the looting and destruction of archaeological and Arab cultural heritage.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

A representative of the organization attended the fourth session of the Human Right Council, held in Geneva from 12 to 30 March 2007. The Secretary General of the organization also attended the twenty-fifth ministerial session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA), held in Sana'a from 26 to 29 May 2008. In 2009, a delegation from the organization, headed by its Secretary General, attended the United Nations Seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People, which was organized by the Committee on the Exercise of Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in Cairo on 10 and 11 March. In 2010, the Secretary General of the organization attended the first conference of the States parties to the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, held in Paris on 26 and 27 March. A delegation headed by the Secretary General of the organization also attended the twenty-sixth ministerial session of ESCWA, held in Beirut from 17 to 20 May.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In 2007, the organization and the Arab Center for the Development of the Rule of Law and Integrity jointly organized a regional conference on mass media and parliament in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco, in cooperation with UNDP, held in Amman from 12 to 14 January. The two organizations also jointly organized a regional workshop on the judiciary in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco in cooperation with the United Nations, held in Cairo, on 26 and 27 January.

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

The organization did not participate in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, since it focused on its own activities during the reporting period. The organization's future plan of action is to develop programmes and a large part of its work and activities to the Council and its activities, as well as actions related to the Millennium Development Goals. Moreover, the organization's lack of financial resources has affected its activities outside the Arab region.

Additional information

In general, the organization's financial situation and lack of financial resources has affected its activities with United Nations bodies. Representative of the organization are studying new methods and ways to help overcome that factor. The organization's recently elected Secretary General, Omar Zein, will take office in December 2011.

6. Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress

Special, 2003

Introduction

The organization is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization based in San José. It was created in 1988 with the monetary proceeds of the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to its founder and then-President of Costa Rica, Oscar Arias Sánchez, in recognition of his efforts to achieve a firm and lasting peace in Central America.

Aims and purposes of the organization

In the light of its mission to promote more just, peaceful and equitable societies, the organization has developed activities with the principal goal of reducing the devastating impacts of armed violence in the Latin American region, with a particular emphasis on combating the proliferation of arms and armed violence.

Significant changes in the organization

During the reporting period, the organization has extended the geographic scope of its work to include not only Central America but also the Southern Cone and Andean subregions of Latin America, particularly through the Safe School — Safe Community project, and through multinational meetings on the control of the transfer and illicit traffic of firearms.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has promoted the Arms Trade Treaty and other disarmament regimes, and has more than 20 years of experience in promoting such issues in the global arena, particularly in the context of the United Nations. Most significant among those issues is the Arms Trade Treaty, which began as a code of conduct for international arms transfers proposed by Dr. Arias and a group of Nobel Peace Laureates in 1997, and which has since evolved into an initiative for the creation of an arms trade treaty, including negotiations within the United Nations system. The growing international support for the Treaty, which now includes more than 150 countries as well as 20 Nobel Peace Laureates, is due in large part to the advocacy efforts of civil society organizations from around the world, with particular leadership from the organization.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

- Arms Trade Treaty: open-ended working group meetings, held in New York from 2 to 6 March and from 13 to 17 July 2009; first preparatory commission meeting, held in New York from 12 to 23 July 2010; second preparatory commission meeting, held in New York from 28 February to 4 March 2011; third preparatory commission meeting, held in New York from 11 to 15 July 2011
- Costa Rica was represented by the Executive Director of the organization at meetings of the governmental group of experts on military expenditures for the period 2010-2011: meetings held in Geneva from 8 to 12 November 2010; and in New York from 7 to 11 February and 9 to 13 May 2011
- Representatives of the organization also attended meetings held on 25 and 26 October 2009, to mark United Nations Disarmament Week

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization was involved in initiatives relating to such issues as small arms and light weapons, conventional weapons and military expenditure with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research.

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

In November 2009, the organization, in collaboration with the non-governmental organization Religions for Peace, sponsored the “Arms Down” youth campaign on disarmament for shared security, bringing together hundreds of youth religious leaders from around the world to inaugurate the campaign in San José. Costa Rica was chosen to host the launch of the campaign based on its historical dedication to global disarmament, including the constitutional abolition of its own armed forces in 1949. The campaign reached out to religious communities, international organizations, Governments, parliaments and national assemblies, municipalities, media and other members of global civil society, in support of three key goals: nuclear disarmament; stemming the proliferation of conventional weapons; and reducing global military expenditure by 10 per cent in order to promote the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Additional information

In the economic sphere, the organization collaborated with the Banco Centroamericano para la Integración Económica on a women's microenterprise training initiative, aimed at empowering women in Costa Rica by helping them to run their own businesses. The initiative also forms part of the Costa Rican Network for the United Nations Global Compact on Corporate Social Responsibility, promoting good corporate citizenship and the development of public-private partnerships.

7. Asayesefid White Cane**Special, 2007****Introduction**

The organization was established in 1990 and continues its activities aimed at supporting and empowering the blind and visually impaired. During the reporting period, the organization expanded its activities in rehabilitation, training, trainer-training, financial support, public awareness-raising, psychological support and other supportive areas.

Aims and purposes of the organization

There have been no changes.

Significant changes in the organization

Since receiving consultative status, there has been no change in the constitution, by-laws, geographical coverage, organizational affiliations or consultative status of the organization. However, there has been an increase in the number of blind and visually impaired individuals from Tehran and other provinces who receive services from the organization. While the scope of its activities has not changed, there has been an increase in the variety of services and classes for blind and visually impaired individuals (such as life skills, sports and bicycling). The organization has also increased its financial resources by absorbing further contributions and donations from one of the members of its board of trustees.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization has helped to promote higher standards of living, employment, economic, social and health progress for blind and visually impaired individuals through the following activities:

- Providing rehabilitation and vocational skill training
- Holding workshops, classes and short-term courses as well as educational, technical, life and social skills classes
- Providing psychological support and consulting for blind and visually impaired individuals and their families
- Teaching Braille writing and reading

- Providing training on subjects such as crafts and needlework (beading, knitting, sewing and pottery), poem reading, Koran reading, story writing, botanicals, chorus and music, theatre and acting and computers
- Arranging physical exercise classes (yoga)
- Providing training on self-awareness and direction-finding
- Organizing educational and cultural camps and social events
- Arranging group sessions for blind and visually impaired individuals, trainers and supporters of the organization
- Translating various books to Braille and vocal material
- Assisting students by translating course materials into Braille and vocal media
- Providing financial support for marriage
- Providing financial support to educate about 150 students
- Donating aid tools such as writing materials, canes, voice recorders, speaking watches, clocks and liquid indicators
- Arranging special assistance in various circumstances such as exam sessions, libraries or offices
- Providing welfare support to blind and visually impaired individuals in need

The organization also helped to promote the social and human rights of blind and visually impaired individuals through the following:

- Public awareness-raising and informing communities about the capabilities, inabilities and social rights of blind and visually impaired individuals
- Liaising and communicating with Government, welfare and municipality organizations on the special needs of blind and visually impaired individuals, for example, to improve the quality of pedestrian pathways in many areas of cities
- Working with the national broadcasting system and other media to inform the public about the special needs of blind and visually impaired individuals
- Cooperating with Governmental and welfare organizations to improve harmonized efforts to promote the social rights and life standards of blind and visually impaired individuals

The organization has also made efforts to improve international cultural and educational cooperation. For example, the organization arranged a symbolic event with Turkey in which a blind woman and her husband bicycled from Khoy, Islamic Republic of Iran, which is the city of Shams Tabirozi, to Qonia, Turkey, which is the city of Mowlana. The organization also observes World Blind Day (15 October) by organizing a public event and using the opportunity for awareness raising, fund-raising and network-building.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

There has been no participation in meetings of the United Nations.

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

The organization contributes to efforts aimed at achieving universal primary education by donating aid tools, translation educational materials into Braille and vocal media, arranging exams and providing financial support to educate about 150 students. It also contributes to efforts aimed at building global partnerships for development. Examples include the organization's efforts to establish knowledge-sharing bridges with Turkey, its cooperation with United Nations offices in Tehran, and observance of World Blind Day (15 October) by organizing a public event.

8. Asian Centre for Human Rights

Special, 2007

Introduction

There have been no changes.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and purposes of the organization are to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Asian region.

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 conducted the following activities to contribute to the work of the United Nations:

(a) Submissions for inclusion into the 10-page stakeholders' summary prepared by OHCHR for consideration during the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council. The organization made stakeholders' submissions for the universal periodic reviews of Bahrain, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka;

(b) The organization carried out critical analyses of the work of the United Nations, including reviews entitled "OHCHR's damning silence: it needs a new approach to speak out", "Bangladesh: Q&A session at the UPR", "OHCHR's challenge in Nepal", "The United Nations scam on human trafficking: no protection for the victims", "OHCHR on UPR: speak up and die", "OHCHR in Nepal: an early warning for NGOs", and "Burma: Member States of the United Nations must intervene";

(c) The organization submitted a shadow report to the second to fifth periodic reports of India, on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/IND/5), considered by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on 7 and 8 May 2008. A representative of the organization also briefed the members of the Committee during an informal briefing;

(d) The organization conducts regular training workshops to increase expertise on the United Nations human rights mechanisms. During the reporting

period, the organization trained 170 human rights defenders on the use of the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization participated in various sessions of the Human Rights Council and United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and proceedings of the treaty bodies.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization regularly submits communications to United Nations special procedures mandate holders and fully cooperated during the visit of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to India in January 2011.

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

The organization has been monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals in India by taking up cases of exclusion and discrimination before national human rights institutions and the judiciary.

Additional information

The organization has developed specific expertise on the use and implementation of United Nations human rights standards at the national level by using national human rights mechanisms. It is pertinent to mention that as of 3 May 2011, India's National Human Rights Commission has awarded compensation of Rs 17,885,800 (about \$388,821) to the victims of human rights violations and their relatives, pursuant to the complaints filed by the organization.

9. Asian Centre for Organization Research and Development

Special, 1999

Introduction

The organization was set up in 1981 and has been working for over 29 years to make visible changes and achieve results in rural and urban communities, Government and public and private sector organizations.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to sponsor, conduct and collaborate with bodies performing research, investigations or studies on management subjects, especially in the areas of organization development in industry, health, environment, agriculture and rural sectors, and to propagate and make use of the results thereof.

Significant changes in the organization

The earlier work of the organization on people's participation in governance, for which the Government of Delhi received first prize from the United Nations in

2005, has impacted on the success in designing and facilitating large group workshops on new areas.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization was represented at annual sessions of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention on Sustainable Development and in meetings of the preparatory commission for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held at Headquarters in May 2011. It represented farmers at meetings of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in Copenhagen in December 2009 and in Bonn, Germany, in June 2010. It also presented papers at side events organized on the margins of those meetings.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization participated in the fifteenth to eighteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, held in New York in 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010. It also participated in the fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in 2008 and 2009. The organization was also represented at a meeting of the High-level Segment of the Council, held in Geneva in July 2009, and at the October 2010 meeting of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization, through its projects, focuses on the areas of health care, capacity-building, the environment, sustainable development, climate change and income generation.

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

As part of its project on poverty alleviation and microenterprises development, the organization works directly with the rural poor in Bharatpur, India, to carry forward a project on income generation and microenterprise development, initiated with funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development. A total of 1,079 people received support from the organization to create small enterprises that offer empowerment, especially to the women in the rural areas of Bharatpur.

In 2005, the organization came top of 215 entries worldwide to become the first ever Indian recipient of the United Nations Public Service Award, for its “Yamuna Action Plan Project-II”, in which it performed public participation and awareness work as part of a wider project with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi to clean up the Yamuna river. It was also a leading finalist of the 2010 Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Singapore and Centre for Liveable Cities, in the category of urban policies and programmes, urban management and applied technology in urban solutions.

Additional information

In early 2007, the organization launched a citizen’s campaign for good governance and democratic development in Delhi. The initiative was anchored on the 74th amendment

of the Indian Constitution, which deals with municipalities and provides for the participation of citizens in governance through “ward committees”.

10. Asian People’s Disability Alliance

Special, 2007

Introduction

The organization is a grass-roots organization for disabled people, based in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and set up, managed and run by Asian disabled people.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization was created 22 years ago, to address the direct care needs of its client groups. It is involved in policy-level activities and contributes specialized input concerning race and disability to central and local government departments, health authority service planners, colleges, research institutes and others. The organization is an active member of the United Kingdom disability movement and participated in the various efforts of the movement in securing rights and opportunities for disabled people in the United Kingdom.

Significant changes in the organization

After many years of offering support to disabled people in the United Kingdom, the organization decided to share its specialized experience in the care and support of disabled Asian people for the benefit of disabled peers in the developing countries of South and South-East Asia. It also made a tangible input to the work of the European Disability Forum.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization was invited to attend a conference in Thailand on disability, at which it witnessed the tremendous amount of effective work the United Nations is doing in terms of social, economic and other development for disabled people globally. Members of the organization therefore decided that it would also like to play a part in facilitating the removal of various barriers faced by disabled people around the world and join in the efforts of the United Nations in empowering disabled people and promoting their social inclusion.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

After receiving consultative status, the organization made its first contribution at the forty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development, held at Headquarters in February 2009. Representatives of the organization offered input on the main theme of poverty reduction and other disability-related matters, including accessibility and the current lack of focus or importance on disability recording within the Millennium Development Goals. At the main closing session, the organization was pleased to have supported feedback from non-governmental organizations to the country representative of the United Nations on the importance of having all nations make provisions and take serious action to improve the lives and opportunities for disabled people by including them in mainstream societies.

Representatives of the organization contributed again during their participation at the third session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held in New York in September 2010. They also spoke during the panel discussions to highlight the merits of the Diaspora Volunteering Initiative programme, in which professional diaspora volunteers are deployed in their country of origin.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In October 2005, representatives of the organization were invited to attend a conference on disability, held in Bangkok, jointly hosted by the Leonard Cheshire Disability organization and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

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

From 2008 to 2010, in collaboration with the organization Voluntary Services Overseas and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom, the organization engaged in the Diaspora Volunteering Initiative programme in Sri Lanka. The programme involved sending professional diaspora volunteers, such as doctors, teachers, counsellors, livelihood skills trainers and other professionals, to a district with large communities of internally displaced persons to provide training and skills-building, including training for trainers, medical help, education, livelihood skills training, workshops and other essential and purposeful activities. The international development project focused on supporting disabled people, including internally displaced persons and persons from the host community in the Puttalam District of Sri Lanka. The project included four key areas of activities: income generation, disability equality, health and education. The programme supported Goals 1, 2 and 4 of the Millennium Development Goals.

11. Asociatia Pro Democratia

Special, 2007

Introduction

The organization is a non-governmental, non-profit and non-party-affiliated organization established in 1990. It currently has 31 branches in which more than 1,000 citizens (members and volunteers) participate in implementing its projects.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The mission of the organization is to strengthen democracy at the national and international levels by encouraging civic participation.

Significant changes in the organization

In February 2011, a group of citizens from the Republic of Moldova applied to create the Pro Democracy Association Club branch in Chisinau. In October 2011, the organization's general assembly will decide whether to amend its statute to allow the creation of international subsidiaries. Strategic objectives for the period 2011-2015 are as follows:

- Ensuring accuracy of the electoral process for presidential, local and parliamentary elections at the national and international levels
- Improving the electoral legislation of the organization and administration of elections
- Developing specific mechanisms for participatory democracy
- Promoting good governance by increasing the level of transparency and fighting corruption
- Improving civic education
- Supporting democratic practices and fighting against discrimination in small communities
- Informing citizens about Romania's position in the European Union on areas of expertise of the organization
- Increasing the institutional capacity of the organization in terms of organization and internal communication
- Increasing by 30 per cent the organization's revenues from sources other than traditional financing (providing services, contributions, sponsorships/donations)
- Increasing the capacity of communicating with authorities/local public institutions and citizens for a total of 15 branches by the end of 2015

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2007, the organization developed a project on the theme "Caravan for information and non-discrimination training", in partnership with the Romanian national council for combating discrimination and UNDP Romania, with the aim of creating a space for democratic dialogue on discrimination, an interface between State institutions, media, opinion leaders, non-governmental organizations and disadvantaged people. From January 2009 to December 2010, a project on strengthening good governance in Romania, was developed with the financial support of the United Nations Democracy Fund to increase representation of women and the Roma community in decision-making at the local level and encourage representatives to promote and apply good governance principles in their activities as members of local government.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

As a member of the European Electoral Network of Election Monitoring Organizations, the organization spread democratic ideas and communicative actions by participating with its own specialists in election observation missions in order to monitor the electoral process in countries such as Georgia (2008), Kosovo (2009, 2010), Kyrgyzstan (2007, 2009, 2010) and Ukraine (2007, 2010). The organization's electoral monitoring specialists were also requested by the Romanian Minister for Foreign Affairs to participate in election monitoring missions of the European Union Election Observation Mission in countries such as Afghanistan (2009), Burundi (2010), Chad (2011), Côte d'Ivoire (2010), Ecuador (2007), Ethiopia (2010), Guinea (2010), Guinea-Bissau (2009), Nepal (2007), Niger (2011), Nigeria (2011), the Sudan (2010), Tunisia (2011), Uganda (2011), the United Republic of Tanzania (2010) and Zambia (2011).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

During the reporting period, the organization developed projects with the support of and cooperation from UNDP Romania and the United Nations Democracy Fund.

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

From December 2008 to April 2009, the organization developed a project on the theme “My world is growing” to promote the Millennium Development Goals and develop youth community involvement. Young people aged 14 to 30 and teachers from partner high schools and universities from two cities in Romania were the direct beneficiaries of the project. The project also brought benefits to all local communities in the two municipalities.

12. Associated Country Women of the World

Special, 1947

Introduction

The organization is the largest international organization for rural women and is active in more than 75 countries in Africa, Australia, the Caribbean, Central America, Europe, the Far East, New Zealand, North America, South America, South-East Asia, the South Pacific Islands and the United Kingdom. The organization was started in 1933 to give rural women a voice at the international level.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to raise the living standard of women and their families through literacy, education and training; community development projects for income earning and for the promotion of agriculture, health, nutrition and childcare; the elimination of discrimination and of inequality of opportunity; and the promotion of international cooperation and understanding.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization participated in a workshop on the importance of mothers to the girl child, as part of the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at Headquarters from 26 February to 9 March 2007.

The organization sponsored a workshop on leadership and capacity-building for rural women, held in Trinidad and Tobago from 10 to 14 April 2007.

The organization marked International Day of Rural Women (15 October) by making a statement to its members and participating in various gatherings in many countries and providing general support.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization attended and participated in annual sessions, workshops, seminars and caucuses of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York.

At the fifty-first session of the Commission, held from 26 February to 9 March 2007, the organization was co-signatory to non-governmental organization statements on such principle themes as the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child, the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality and ending discrimination and violence against the girl child. At its fifty-second session, held from 25 February to 7 March 2008, the organization was co-signatory to non-governmental organization statements on older women, financing and peace. At its fifty-third session, held from 2 to 13 March 2009, the organization was co-signatory to non-governmental organization statements on the priority theme of “The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS” and the theme “The equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes at all levels”.

In 2010, the organization took part in the Global Forum for Women: Beijing+15, and the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, both held at Headquarters.

The organization was represented at the sixty-third session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, from 17 to 23 May 2007, the theme of which was “Development of health systems in the context of enhancing economic growth towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific”.

The organization was also represented at the seventeenth session of the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, held in New York from 4 to 15 May 2009.

Representatives of the organization attended the twenty-fifth session of the Regional Conference for Africa of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), held in Nairobi from 16 to 20 June 2008. It was also represented at the twenty-sixth FAO Regional Conference for Europe, held in Innsbruck, Austria, on 26 and 27 June 2008, and at the FAO High-level Conference on World Food Security, held in Rome from 3 to 5 June 2008.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In 2008, the organization cooperated with the Participation Programme and Emergency Assistance Section of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

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

The organization sponsors small-scale development projects to help enrich the lives of women, families and communities in developing countries.

Additional information

The twenty-fifth triennial conference of the organization was held in Finland in 2007, on the theme “Winning the way for women”. It also held workshops on the

United Nations in relation to the organization and adopted resolutions and recommendations on such issues as women entrepreneurs, water and poverty, energy for the future, obesity awareness, the Millennium Development Goals, diabetes and the role of women in decision-making.

13. Association for Democratic Initiatives

Special, 2003

Introduction

The organization aims to integrate human rights into the political, economic and social development of societies in South-East Europe.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to protect and promote international human rights standards and values, build and strengthen civil society and support citizens, refugees, migrants, internally displaced persons, youth, media, Government, the private sector and other civil society organizations, through advocacy, participation and educational activities. The organization contributed to the meaningful process of peace and security in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in particular the process of decentralization and strengthening civil society nationally and regionally. It was actively involved in the process of monitoring the implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement, which aimed at ending the violent conflict in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2001. The organization did this by monitoring the level of transparency within the process of decentralization, municipal fiscal resources, administrative capacities, transfer of responsibilities at the local level, citizenship participation in decision-making bodies, municipal economic and infrastructure development and decentralization in the education system. The organization also focused on power-sharing, the protection of minorities and their proper representation. It developed activities related to the contribution of civil society towards the most effective procedures of decentralization in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Reports were published for the benefit of many domestic and international organizations.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

There has been no contribution to the work of the United Nations.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in a number of meetings, including on strategies for youth employment; fostering global partnerships and the role of women (UNESCO); borders and public health, held in Gorizia, Italy, in May 2009; and enhancing inter-ethnic community dialogue and collaboration, as part of a United Nations joint programme, held in May 2011.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization is one of the implementing partner organizations of the United Nations Population Fund project on strengthening national capacities to prevent domestic violence, which aims to develop a coordinated and collaborative community-based response to domestic violence and to strengthen the capacities of institutions and organizations dealing with domestic violence at the local level. The project involves top-level officials and administrative employees of such institutions that deal with cases of domestic violence, while the final beneficiaries will be the victims of domestic violence. The project aims will be achieved through a number of activities, such as establishing a coordinating committee on domestic violence; signing a memorandum of cooperation between involved institutions; creating an action plan for tackling domestic violence at the local level; taking a decision to make the committee a permanent body of the local government; undertaking training and education activities for the representatives of involved institutions; and conducting public debates, outreach activities and campaigns.

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

The organization did not participate in the work of the Council as it focused its activities on the development and implementation of programmes of education on domestic violence, strengthening the position of women in society, gender equality and enhancing inter-ethnic community dialogue and collaboration.

14. Association for Progressive Communications**General, 1995****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, in partnership with other organizations, launched an initiative entitled “Global information society watch” to monitor the implementation of international and national commitments made by Governments towards the creation of an inclusive information society. It also developed an initiative on communication for influence in Central, East and West Africa, to identify the political obstacles to extending affordable access to information communication and technology infrastructure in Africa and advocate for their removal in order to create a sound platform for subregional connectivity in Central, East and West Africa. The organization also worked on a similar project in the Andean region from 2009 to 2010, and a project in 2008 and 2009 to provide the poor with information and

communications technology. The organization has participated consistently in the Internet Governance Forum since its inception, and has had a pivotal role in regionalizing the Forum by promoting and organizing regional Internet governance meetings in Latin America and Africa. The organization's representatives have also participated in the Forum's multi-stakeholder advisory group and in various working groups to organize main sessions and workshops. Its representatives have also been selected to speak at opening, closing and main plenary sessions.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization attended the following meetings:

- Meeting of the Strategy Council of the United Nations Global Alliance for Information and Communications Technology and Development, held in Santa Clara, California, United States, on 27 and 28 February 2007
- Tenth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, held in Addis Ababa on 12 to 14 February 2007
- Open consultation of the multi-stakeholder advisory group of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Geneva, on 13 and 14 February 2007
- Tenth session of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development, held in Geneva from 21 to 25 May 2007
- Joint meeting of the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Global Alliance for Information and Communications Technology and Development, held in Geneva on 25 May 2007
- Consultation meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Geneva on 23 May 2007
- Latin American and Caribbean ministerial conferences on the information society, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in San Salvador in 2008
- Meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, held from 17 to 20 May 2010
- Thirteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, held in Geneva from 13 to 16 June 2010
- Eleventh Women's Regional Conference, held in Brasilia (invited as member of the 2010 ECLAC working group on gender)
- Meetings of the Internet Governance Forum in 2007 (Brazil), 2008 (India), 2009 (Egypt) and 2010 (Lithuania)

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In 2010, the organization developed a code of good practice on information, participation and transparency in Internet governance with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. It also responded to the Internet Governance Forum multi-stakeholder advisory group questionnaire in November 2010, and submitted an assessment of the fourth Internet Governance Forum in November 2009. The organization gave a written submission to the United Nations Group on the Information Society in October 2009, and made a statement on the Internet

Governance Forum open consultations in Geneva in February 2008. Representatives of the organization made contributions to the follow-up meetings to the World Summit on the Information Society, held in May and June 2008.

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

Goal 3. The organization has created an annual campaign to create awareness of how information and communications technology is connected to violence against women, and to strengthen the information and communications technology capacity of women's rights advocates. During the reporting period, the project aimed to help women participants negotiate the fraught terrain of information and communications technology where freedoms go hand in hand with growing privacy and security concerns.

Goal 7. The organization has created a project on information and communications technology, climate change and environmental sustainability that aims to address how national information and communications technology policy environments address information and communications technology, environmental sustainability and climate change; and how information and communications technology can be used more sustainably by developers of such technology, civil society organizations and service providers.

15. Association of Third World Studies

Special, 1995

Introduction

There have been no changes.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization was created in 1983 to provide an international structure for the humane and scientific study of third-world peoples, problems and issues, with the ultimate goal of improving quality of life. It is now the largest professional organization of its kind in the world, with a global membership and chapters in South Asia and Africa, including academics, practitioners in the area of third-world development, employees of Government agencies and diplomats in 45 states plus the District of Columbia in the United States, and in 21 other countries around the globe (especially India, Kenya and Nigeria). The organization has an international impact through the worldwide circulation of its *Journal of Third World Studies* (including contributions by third-world scholars), consultative status with the Council, website and chapters in South Asia and Africa (Kenya and Nigeria). The South Asia chapter of the organization has held seven successful conferences and members of chapters in Kenya and Nigeria have attended its conferences and are prolific contributors to the *Journal*. The Kenya chapter held its sixth and extremely successful conference in November 2005 at Western University College of Science and Technology in Kakemega, Kenya, drawing participants from Nigeria, United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization's representative to the United Nations has contributed to several United Nations meetings over the reporting period, and has actively engaged with other major groups in several meetings of the United Nations Forum on Forests and United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The representative was also instrumental in organizing an initiative held in support of the work of the Forum on Forests in Ghana in July 2010.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization's representative to the United Nations attended the following meetings:

- Seventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, held at Headquarters from 16 to 27 April 2007
- Sixth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held at Headquarters from 14 to 25 May 2007
- Eighth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, held at Headquarters from 20 April to 1 May 2009
- Eighth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held at Headquarters from 18 to 29 May 2009
- Meeting of the United Nations Forum on Forests ad hoc expert group on forest financing, held in Nairobi from 14 to 17 September
- Ninth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests, held at Headquarters from 24 January to 4 February 2011

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization's representative has also attended meetings associated with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As the organization does not have observer status with those organizations, attendance has been as a representative of other organizations. However, the representative brings her expertise in environmental issues and the Global South to the meetings.

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

The organization contributes to all of the Millennium Development Goals since it has scholars worldwide who study relevant topics. Additionally, it has chapters in South Asia and in Kenya. The organization hosts a forum on African studies and research that provides an important portal for scholars to engage with each other regarding recent work being done in areas related to Africa.