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1. African Action on AIDS

Special, 2003

Introduction

African Action on AIDS was created in 1991 to support youth and local communities affected by AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. It is a tax-exempt non-profit organization (501 (c) (3)) registered in the United States of America. It is also authorized in Cameroon. Its special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council was granted in 2003.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and purposes of African Action on AIDS include the following:

- (a) To help youth infected with HIV and affected by HIV and AIDS to become agents of change and use their knowledge to change their communities;
- (b) To pass on to youth and local communities the knowledge they need to prevent diseases and stay alive, and teach them to adopt safe practices and share relevant information with others;
- (c) To raise awareness about health-related issues through preventive health plans;
- (d) To prevent the mother-to-child transmission of HIV;
- (e) To provide scholarships to orphaned girls in secondary school and university to contribute to their economic autonomy.

Significant changes in the organization

The adoption of a methodology called “interpersonal conversations” has made a significant impact because training sessions are now provided to groups of no more than 40 people. The methodology emphasizes the value of real-life lessons that help participants to become agents of change and gain confidence.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

African Action on AIDS is part of a group of partners created locally by the Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). The group includes all United Nations organizations involved in AIDS prevention, bilateral donors, civil society organizations and the Ministry of Public Health. The group meets once a month to review main issues and activities related to HIV and AIDS. In 2008, in collaboration with UNAIDS, the main representative of African Action on AIDS to the United Nations ran from New York City to Chicago to raise awareness about AIDS, spreading United Nations messages as she met with mayors and students.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Between March and June 2009, the African Action on AIDS representative in Vienna represented the organization at the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and at a special event of the Commission on the Status of Women. In addition, the

organization's main representative in New York spoke on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (26 June), celebrating "drug-free heroes". In 2010, African Action on AIDS was represented as one of the 700 volunteers at the XVIII International AIDS Conference, held in Vienna from 18 to 23 July 2010.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In 2009, African Action on AIDS led a project in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) office in Cameroon on preventing the mother-to-child transmission of HIV in 15 villages, covering more than 1,500 women aged 15-49.

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

The launching of a preventive health plan in rural areas promoting basic hygiene, access to potable water and the use of treated bednets as a foundation for public health has been a major effort to reduce child and maternal mortality.

2. All Pakistan Women's Association

Special, 1951

Introduction

The All Pakistan Women's Association is a non-profit women's welfare organization that pioneered the women's movement in Pakistan and is the country's oldest non-governmental organization. Established in 1948 by Ra'ana Liaquat Ali Khan, the wife of Pakistan's first Prime Minister, the Association was developed by volunteer women workers and organizations involved in providing emergency relief during the refugee crisis that resulted from Pakistan's partition from India. Ms. Liaquat, a former professor of economics, advocated an integrated development approach to encourage literacy among women. She popularized the phrase "You educate a woman, you educate a family", and formulated the Association's creed, which is based on health, education and training. The Association was affiliated with international agencies and set up multi-project centres for women throughout Pakistan with schools, dispensaries and maternity homes and family planning clinics in urban and rural areas. Institutions for higher education linked to the Association included a college in Lahore, a college of science and arts in Karachi and a college of home economics in Dhaka. The Association addressed income-generating schemes through the Gul-e-Rana Nusrat industrial home, the Association's cottage industries shop and a craftsmanship colony in Karachi. The Association constantly faced criticism for addressing the legal, political and fundamental rights of women. In 1961, the Association persuaded the Government to pass a family law ordinance that introduced the registration of marriage and a minimum age for marriage and regularized divorce procedures and inheritance laws for orphans. Over the years, the Association has introduced programmes on rural development, the environment, technical training, raising awareness of HIV, AIDS and drug abuse, among others, and was extensively engaged in the 2006 earthquake relief effort. The Association holds consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and the Government of Pakistan.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and purposes of the All Pakistan Women's Association are the following:

- (a) To prevent or relieve poverty and sickness and to promote the mental, physical, sexual and emotional health of Pakistani women in all parts of the world;
- (b) To promote equality of opportunity for Pakistani women in all parts of the world;
- (c) To advance the education of Pakistani women in all parts of the world;
- (d) To educate the public throughout the world on subjects relating to the economic conditions of Pakistani women, the mental, physical and emotional health of these women and matters relating to equality of opportunity for Pakistani women.

Significant changes in the organization

Trusts have been created, professionals have been trained and all nursing units have been registered.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The All Pakistan Women's Association has strong ties with the United Nations and has special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The Association has a network of volunteers, members and affiliates that extends across the globe and voluntary fund-raising arms in Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States; it also has a strong presence throughout Pakistan, in every province and district. The funds raised are used by the Association in its outreach programmes.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The permanent representative of the All Pakistan Women's Association in New York attends all meetings.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The All Pakistan Women's Association cooperates with UNICEF, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

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

Under the able leadership of its President, Laila Haroon Sarfaraz, the Association held a women's world conference on the Millennium Development Goals.

Additional information

The All Pakistan Women's Association is in the process of setting up a dialysis centre in collaboration with the Sindh Institute of Urology and Transplantation. It also established the country's first national call centre for less privileged women.

3. Asociación Mensajeros de la Paz

Special, 2007

Introduction

Asociación Mensajeros de la Paz is a humanitarian non-governmental organization that seeks to fight poverty and improve the situation of vulnerable people around the world. Founded in 1962, it has grown and expanded to the point of being able to help the most disadvantaged people in 40 countries. The organization is committed to working for people in need, including children, youngsters, teenage mothers and their babies, drug addicts, immigrant families, disabled people, elderly people, women who have no shelter or suffer violence and people who live in the street in a state of neglect. Asociación Mensajeros de la Paz has been the recipient of numerous awards.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and purposes of Asociación Mensajeros de la Paz are to provide care, support and treatment for, to pay attention to and to promote rehabilitation for the human and social development of the most disadvantaged and needy groups in Spain and several other countries. The organization aims to provide assistance to minors, young people at risk, abused women, physically and psychologically handicapped people, drug addicts and elderly people who live alone in a state of abandonment or poverty.

Significant changes in the organization

The vision, mission and values of Asociación Mensajeros de la Paz have remained unchanged for over 40 years.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Asociación Mensajeros de la Paz pays special attention to the promotion of women and the fight against sexual violence. It also works against trafficking in children and child exploitation, whether for the purpose of labour, sexual or any other kind of abuse. Particular care is taken to make all projects and actions undertaken by the organization sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Asociación Mensajeros de la Paz has been represented at numerous events and initiatives of the United Nations by the platforms and organizations (national and international) to which it belongs, including Plataforma del Voluntariado de España, Coordinadora de las Organizaciones No Gubernamentales para el Desarrollo de España and Plataforma de Organizaciones de Infancia.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Asociación Mensajeros de la Paz is working with United Nations bodies in various joint projects in different countries, especially with UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and United Nations peacekeeping forces. In recent years, it has worked closely with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon to provide health and social care to wounded civilians and distribute

toys and learning materials in schools, among other activities. In Haiti, Asociación Mensajeros de la Paz has worked with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti to provide health care for earthquake victims, locate the relatives of wounded children and open a humanitarian airlift in the area of Les Cayes. In Spain, Asociación Mensajeros de la Paz has collaborated with UNICEF on various events to raise awareness of child rights. In Benin, it works on a project to help children who are the victims of labour exploitation and trafficking. In Spain and countries in Africa and the Americas, it provides social and material support to persons who have been given refugee status by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

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

The initiatives carried out by Asociación Mensajeros de la Paz to raise awareness of and implement the Millennium Development Goals are a very important part of the organization's work. For example, in Spain the organization is actively involved in all public events related to the Goals, especially during the week of "*Pobreza Cero*", a campaign that is held every year in October. Asociación Mensajeros de la Paz highlights the importance of the Millennium Development Goals through its website (www.mensajerosdelapaz.com) and its magazine, *Chiaroscuro*. It also organizes various activities with the media, conferences and other public events focused on raising awareness of the Millennium Development Goals. Its projects and activities for social welfare and development cooperation also take the Goals into account.

4. Asociación Proyecto Hombre

Special, 2007

Introduction

Asociación Proyecto Hombre was founded to respond to the drug dependency situation in Spain during the 1980s. For more than 25 years, one of its main aims has been the constant updating and diversifying of resources to enable it to better respond to the complex and changing phenomenon of addiction. At the outset, the organization's programmes were mainly for heroin users, then they gave way to programmes for users of synthetic drugs and cocaine. In recent years, Asociación Proyecto Hombre has continued to provide new resources to the problem of drug addiction and has become active in the fight against other types of addiction.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Over the past year, more than 19,000 people with drug problems and their families have been treated at the centres managed by the organization. In 2010, more than 84,000 people benefited from universal or selective prevention programmes led by the organization's professionals. Asociación Proyecto Hombre currently has a network of 26 foundations dedicated to the provision of care and the prevention of addiction throughout the Spanish territory. The organization is integrated into international networks of non-governmental organizations specializing in addiction worldwide, as well as in Latin America and Europe. In recent years, Asociación Proyecto Hombre has supported the Millennium Development Goals and other goals

of the United Nations, not only by participating in forums but also through communication efforts.

Significant changes in the organization

In the past four years, some new situations, such as the implementation of a law on the criminal responsibility of minors, have had a particular impact on the organization's programmes. Asociación Proyecto Hombre has initiated in-house and outpatient treatment programmes for young offenders who have been prosecuted; more than 500 minors are treated annually at our centres. The programmes were created to respond to changing needs in terms of care and have led to an increase in our beneficiaries and our resources.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Since Asociación Proyecto Hombre entered into special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, it has participated every year in the sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, as well as in other forums organized by the United Nations in the field of addiction. Asociación Proyecto Hombre has continued to develop projects in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the areas of prison reform, drug treatment and the training of professionals.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Asociación Proyecto Hombre has participated in the following events, all of which were held in Vienna: the fifty-first, fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively; the high-level segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs held on 11 and 12 March 2009; the meeting of the Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs, held in November 2008; and the NGO Forum "Beyond 2008", held from 7 to 9 July 2008.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In March 2006, Asociación Proyecto Hombre joined the international network of drug dependence treatment and rehabilitation resource centres (Treatnet), a project promoted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

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

The president of Asociación Proyecto Hombre reaffirmed the organization's commitment to supporting the Millennium Development Goals at the meeting of its annual assembly, which consists of the heads of the organization's centres, and through eight international networks of non-governmental organizations specializing in addictions, which have provided opportunities for representatives of Asociación Proyecto Hombre to talk about the United Nations and the Goals.

Additional information

The annual report of Asociación Proyecto Hombre for 2009 is available from <http://proyectohombre.es/images/memoria-2009.pdf>.

5. Association of United Families International

Special, 1999

Introduction

The Association of United Families International is a public charity registered in the United States (501 (c) (3)) devoted to maintaining and strengthening the family as the fundamental unit of society.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Association of United Families International is dedicated to promoting laws, public policies and programmes that support families at the local, national and international levels. It seeks to educate and motivate governmental, religious and community leaders to work in concert with citizens at the grass-roots level to preserve the family. The main thrust of the Association's efforts at the United Nations centre on education. It engages in educational efforts in the developing world in the areas of HIV/AIDS prevention, primary education and the reduction of child and maternal mortality. The Association works directly through the United Nations system to educate United Nations representatives and delegates on policies affecting the family.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Association of United Families International continues to update and distribute its "negotiating guide", which is a helpful tool for guiding delegates as they work with the numerous declarations and resolutions that emerge from the United Nations system.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Association of United Families International participated in the fifty-first to fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions of the Commission for Social Development and the fortieth, forty-first and forty-third sessions of the Commission on Population and Development. The Association was also represented at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010, and at United Nations conferences on HIV/AIDS held in 2007 and 2008.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Association of United Families International actively supports the efforts of the United Nations Programme on the Family by submitting educational materials to the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and hopes to be actively engaged in the lead-up to the International Year of the Family (2014). Through its Stay Alive Program, the Association follows and supports the meetings of the World Health Organization and conferences on HIV/AIDS.

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

With regard to Millennium Development Goal No. 2, on achieving universal primary education, the Association of United Families International is a sponsor of the programme “Containers for education”, through which gently used books on core curriculum subjects and library books are collected from schools in the United States and shipped in containers to schools in Ghana. With regard to Millennium Development Goals No. 4, on reducing child mortality, and No. 5, on improving maternal health, Association members support the efforts of the organization Care for Life and its Family Preservation Program, which helps families in Mozambique to survive and thrive. The Program’s main objective is to overcome poverty by preserving and empowering families. The goal is to break the cycle of family disintegration and create a sustainable community environment that fosters behavioural change and promotes self-reliance. The Association is actively involved in an educational campaign on maternal mortality and the steps needed to eradicate that problem. With regard to Millennium Development Goal No. 6, on combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, the Association has sponsored the highly successful Stay Alive Program, implemented primarily in sub-Saharan Africa. The Stay Alive Program empowers children between the ages of 9 and 14 to make smart choices before they become sexually active. The children learn about HIV and AIDS and how they can protect themselves from contracting HIV by abstaining from sex before marriage and by remaining faithful once they are married. The Stay Alive Program empowers youth by providing them with knowledge that could save their lives. Since 2001, the Program has been implemented in nine African countries and involved more than 1.5 million children and their families. In Kenya alone, over 350,000 children and their families have been taught using the Program in schools, community organizations, religious organizations and families.

6. Associazione IRENE

Special, 2007

Introduction

Associazione IRENE is a non-profit organization committed to the promotion of European social policies. In particular, it focuses on equality of opportunity for men and women. “IRENE” stands for Initiatives, Research and Experiences for a New Europe.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Associazione IRENE promotes research, studies, training, information exchange and the building of networks in the framework of the directives and recommendations of the European Union, in cooperation with institutional partners and other non-profit organizations. Its focus is on the following areas:

(a) Equal opportunity and democracy through projects that comply with the European concept of promoting the principle of gender equality in all policies, leading to equal opportunity for an active participation in political, economic and social life;

(b) Cooperation in the accession process to the European Union and integration of member and candidate countries by promoting European law and the visibility of the European Union;

(c) Fundamental human rights and social inclusion by fighting poverty and social exclusion with the aim of reducing inequalities and creating an inclusive Europe;

(d) Actions aimed at preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation;

(e) Actions aimed at favouring the social integration and employment of immigrant women, as well as actions against discrimination;

(f) Equal access to today's knowledge-based society through studies and research on the use of new information and communications technologies.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Associazione IRENE works to encourage transnational projects and initiatives that promote greater gender equality by ensuring the implementation of relevant legislation, gender mainstreaming in public policies and the development of positive actions promoted by the European Union. Since its establishment, the organization has implemented more than 10 projects funded by the European Commission and more than 5 projects funded through the structural funds, in the area of gender equality and equal opportunity. In December 2007, Associazione IRENE established, in partnership with 18 other non-governmental organizations based in 15 States members of the European Union, a European-level network of organizations active in promoting equality between women and men, in accordance with European Union anti-discrimination policy. The organization has been involved in the "Altre Strade" project, co-funded by Fondazione Cariplo, since 2009. The project is aimed at promoting the social inclusion of disadvantaged persons, in particular women and children who have been victims of the traffic in human beings and sexual exploitation. The organization attended the Fourth European Equality Summit, held in Brussels on 15 and 16 November 2010. In addition, it was involved in the network of women elected to political office in the Italian region of Lombardy in 2010 and has been managing the web pages of the "network of the elected" (www.retedellelette.lombardia.it), an online space dedicated to the women who have been elected to serve in the local government of Lombardy. The network is intended to support women involved in local government and all citizens by offering them the possibility to network on gender equality issues through the web. Associazione IRENE has been involved in the European Union Daphne III Programme (2009), on networking activities against human trafficking and on activities with women's non-governmental organizations in the European Union project "Demetra" (2005-2008). The "Demetra" project, for which the lead partner of Associazione IRENE was the Chamber of Commerce of Milan, aimed at countering discrimination and gender inequality at work by promoting a policy that sought to strike a balance between family life and work. The objective was to improve women's employment and position in the labour market, earnings and

economic independence over the life cycle. Associazione IRENE supported the implementation of activities at the regional level and coordinated the transnational activities of the project “Clessidra”. Training courses for women in politics were made available in partnership with the local authority of Monza e Brianza (2008).

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Due to the global financial crisis, the organization was not able to attend meetings of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization did not cooperate with United Nations bodies during the reporting period.

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

The projects and initiatives managed by Associazione IRENE aim at developing the ability to address the violation of women's rights due to situations of inequality, gender-based discrimination and social exclusion.

7. Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha

Special, 1999

Introduction

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha is an activist women's organization established in 1986 by a group of women committed to the establishment of equal rights for women in all areas of life, from the family to the State.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The vision of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha is to achieve a society free of all sorts of discrimination. Its mission is to achieve equality through empowerment and social transformation. Its goal is to establish an enabling environment in which disadvantaged people, particularly women, are able to get organized, make demands, exercise their rights and access quality services for social, political and economic empowerment.

Significant changes in the organization

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha has expanded the geographical scope of its work through a programme in the low-lying areas of north-west Bangladesh, which are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Among its new funding partners are: Bischöfliches Hilfswerk Misereor (Germany), the United Nations Democracy Fund, Oxfam Novib and Oxfam Great Britain. In 2008, the Executive Director of the organization was selected to be the convener of the “My rights” campaign, a national alliance of civil society organizations aiming to bring about substantive changes in the quality and the delivery of basic essential services, paying particular attention to education and health, facilitated by the Southern Campaign Group of Oxfam Novib, which started operating at the end of 2007. A dedicated advocate for

people's right to basic services, the Executive Director of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha was selected in 2009 by Oxfam International to be a member of a cabinet of eight women to liaise with the Group of Eight countries. In 2010, the Executive Director was elected to be a member of the executive committee of the Committee for Asian Women, a regional organization for women workers based in Bangkok.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

At the national level, Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha has contributed directly to the social and economic welfare of 15,000 women. In addition, it has had a wider impact through the following: policy reform interventions and analyses of the national budget from a gender-sensitive perspective; reform of the educational system with a view to making the system responsive to issues of gender, sexual and reproductive health rights and HIV and AIDS prevention; and advocacy for implementing international conventions, laws and commitments regarding the empowerment of women, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Millennium Development Goals.

At the local level, Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha has strengthened local government and community-level governance through the inclusion of women and marginalized people. It has raised community-level awareness and promoted mobilization and livelihood initiatives for the development of leadership skills among women through institution-building and education. It has also promoted the economic empowerment of women by focusing on income-generating skills and market access.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Executive Director of Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha participated in and contributed to the fifty-second and fifty-third sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2008 and 2009, respectively.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

1. Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha collaborated in a project with the United Nations Democracy Fund on promoting the rights of women by changing mindsets; the aim of the project was to identify gaps (in the generation and dissemination of knowledge and information) and to sensitize policymakers, government officials, civil society representatives and the international community, among others, to implement targeted interventions to improve the status of women in Bangladesh (September 2008-August 2010).
2. The organization collaborated with the local office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the United Nations Millennium Campaign to advocate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals for women in Bangladesh (April 2010-December 2010).
3. The organization contributed, in consultation with local entities, to the formation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

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

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha contributed to Millennium Development Goal No. 1 by providing income generation and market extension training and credit assistance to 15,000 poor women between 2008 and 2010. In addition, a school curriculum on HIV and AIDS awareness was developed, piloted in five schools and recommended for adoption in the national school curriculum by the Government.

8. Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Special, 2007

Introduction

No changes occurred.

Aims and purposes of the organization

No changes occurred.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2008, the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry became affiliated, as a “class A” chamber, with the Federation of the Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the main umbrella organization of trade bodies in Bangladesh.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry carried out the following activities in support of items on the agenda of the Economic and Social Council:

- (a) Conducted various capacity-building training sessions for women entrepreneurs to help their businesses flourish, thus promoting a higher standard of living;
- (b) Developed networks and partnerships with non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, civil society organizations, business communities and donor agencies at the local, national and international levels to promote women in business and industry;
- (c) Carried out an advocacy programme for formulating and implementing policies favourable to women in business and industry;
- (d) Did research on the development of women’s entrepreneurship;
- (e) Carried out a relief and rehabilitation programme for people affected by cyclone Sidr;
- (f) Implemented an awareness-raising and social mobilization programme to combat corruption;
- (g) Carried out an advocacy programme for creating gender-sensitive business environments to promote respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives of the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry attended the following meetings on the status of women: the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York from 25 February to 7 March 2008; the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008; the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, held during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York from 1 to 12 March 2010; and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry has taken part in many seminars and workshops held in Bangladesh by UNDP and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and contributed to identifying ways to increase women's empowerment.

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

With regard to Millennium Development Goal No. 1, on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry is promoting poverty reduction strategies through various projects that include training sessions and workshops, among other activities, to equip women entrepreneurs to expand their businesses. As a result, the income of those women is increasing and many employment opportunities are being created for many other people, helping to reduce poverty and hunger. With regard to Millennium Development Goal No. 2, on achieving universal primary education, the organization has observed International Literacy Day (8 September) every year to raise public awareness about the value of literacy and, in particular, the significance of educating girls. With regard to Millennium Development Goal No. 3, on promoting gender equality and empowering women, International Women's Day (8 March) and Women's Equality Day (26 August) have been marked every year by the organization to draw attention to the challenges that remain before gender equality can be achieved, through participation in seminars, workshops, rallies and national televised talk shows. The Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry has also observed International Human Rights Day (10 December) each year to make people aware of different human rights issues. With regard to Millennium Development Goal No. 7, on ensuring environmental sustainability, the organization contributed to creating sustainable livelihood and income generation opportunities for women in rural areas affected by cyclone Sidr, which hit the southern coast of Bangladesh in November 2007, causing extensive damage to property and in terms of human lives. Of those women, 250 were trained to become entrepreneurs. Assets such as cows, goats and chickens were distributed among them so that they could start small businesses.

Additional information

In the last four years, the Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry has worked throughout the country to bring women together and advocate for their specific needs. In the process, and in building a coalition with 180 like-minded

organizations, in 2008 it initiated the Women's National Business Agenda, which included policy recommendations in three categories (social barriers; capacity-building and training; and financial barriers) so that governmental and other relevant stakeholders could make effective contributions to promoting the involvement of women in business. As an immediate outcome of that initiative, the Government took a significant step to address one of the financial barriers faced by women entrepreneurs. The central bank of Bangladesh issued several circulars under a refinancing scheme, stating that women entrepreneurs could avail themselves of a collateral-free loan of up to \$35,700 and a maximum interest rate of 10 per cent.

9. BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights

Special, 2007

Introduction

BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights is a non-profit, non-governmental women's human rights organization that focuses on women's legal rights under customary, statutory and religious laws in Nigeria. It was established in 1996 and is registered under part C of the Companies and Allied Matter Act, 1990. BAOBAB evolved from a three-year research project on women and the law that was coordinated by the international network of solidarity Women Living under Muslim Laws, which started in 1993.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The objectives of BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights are to promote knowledge, development and the exercise of women's rights; protect and defend the rights of women; and raise awareness of women's human rights, ways in which those rights are abused and other legal issues as they affect women. The aim is to identify policies that can best promote all human rights.

Significant changes in the organization

More women have become more aware of their rights, as can be gleaned by the increase in the number of women seeking redress for gender-based violence. The organization's leadership training programme, its training on women's political participation and its educational opportunities for women political aspirants and candidates in Nigeria have also had a significant impact. Some of the beneficiaries of the organization's training programmes have run for political office and even won elections during Nigeria's 2011 general elections.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2010, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) engaged BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights to conduct research into the root causes of gender-based violence and an assessment of centres in Benue, Kaduna and the Federal Capital Territory. The research contributes to the global commitment to ending violence against women, which takes into account the recommendations contained in the study of the United Nations Secretary-General *Ending Violence against Women: from Words to Action*.¹ The research identified gaps in the current responses to

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.IV.8.

gender-based violence and proposed strategies and recommendations with a view to providing UNFPA with relevant information for appropriate intervention programmes with the Government, civil society organizations, women's human rights organizations, community-based organizations and faith-based organizations. This will improve the efficacy of UNFPA programme implementation and technical support. In 2009, activities to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence included a press brief, the viewing for journalists of a 30-minute documentary on cases of violence against women and the work of BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights, a street campaign aimed at countering gender-based violence, street theatre/drama presentations and a talk in secondary schools to sensitize children about gender-based violence. In 2010, the activities included the launch of an international fact-finding mission report by the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Front Line, the World Organization against Torture and the International Federation for Human Rights. In the report the different challenges faced by human rights defenders were highlighted. In partnership with the Kudirat Initiative for Democracy and the support of UN-Women, BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights organized two three-day leadership training and political education sessions, as well as a one-day mentoring discussion.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights attended the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and took part in parallel events. In 2008, a coalition of Nigerian non-governmental organizations promoting the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, led by BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights, prepared and submitted a report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on 3 July 2008, for the Committee's consideration during its review of the sixth periodic report of Nigeria.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights cooperates with United Nations bodies and agencies, especially with regard to disseminating or gathering information and data. In September 2009, the organization filled out the African Women's Rights Observatory country questionnaire for the Economic Commission for Africa.

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

The coalition led by BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights believes that gender equality is a cross-cutting component that is essential for meeting all the Millennium Development Goals. In that regard, at its advocacy meeting with civil society and media representatives and policymakers, the coalition stressed the need for the Government of Nigeria to implement the provisions of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, as well as the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria.

10. Brothers of Charity

Special, 1995

Introduction

Brothers of Charity is an international organization that runs or supports more than 200 projects in the following 29 countries: Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Viet Nam and Zambia. The organization is headquartered in Ghent, Belgium. Brothers of Charity provides professional care and guidance to people in need through education, care to the elderly, mental health care, orthopaedic care and care for the poor in general.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Brothers of Charity is devoted to improving the well-being and facilitating the development of individuals and groups that are at risk because of certain psychological, economic or sociological conditions.

Significant changes in the organization

In March 2009 the international non-profit organization Global Action against Poverty was established as the legal international representative organization of Brothers of Charity.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Brothers of Charity contributes to the work of the United Nations by developing strategies to combat poverty and protect the rights of people with disabilities and of psychiatric patients. With regard to caring for people with disabilities (especially in poor countries in Africa, Asia and South America), the following strategies have been developed: improving the quality of life on the principle of unconditional respect for all people, even those who are not in control of all their abilities; developing adapted rehabilitation programmes; training local staff; working together to change the mentality of the majority population; and developing a strong international structure and organization focused on quality, continuity and solidarity. With regard to psychiatric illness and caring for psychiatric patients (especially in poor countries in Africa, Asia and South America), the following strategies have been developed: changing the general mentality with regard to psychiatric illness and psychiatric patients; integrating the care of psychiatric patients into general health-care programmes; developing therapies, cures and approaches to care that are adapted to respond to different types of mental diseases; training local workers in caring for patients with mental health problems; and developing a strong international structure and organization focused on quality, continuity and solidarity.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

In September 2008, Brothers of Charity organized, in cooperation with Belgian Technical Cooperation (Belgium's development cooperation agency) and the non-governmental organization Caraes, a conference on mental health in

development cooperation, held in Brussels. The purpose of the conference was to bring together all those involved in mental health and development cooperation in Belgium. In the presence of King Albert II and Queen Paola of Belgium, during their State visit to India and, in particular, Mumbai, on 7 November 2008, Brothers of Charity and Help Handicapped International, a charitable trust registered in India, signed a declaration of intent to provide capacity-building opportunities to teachers, paramedics and other key personnel of schools for special education in Gujarat, India. In December 2008, Brothers of Charity started cooperating with the Catholic Medical Mission Board in New York. In March 2010, Brothers of Charity agreed that it could collaborate with the Board in three areas: medication, volunteers and concrete projects. It also started an academic cooperation with the Tata Institute of Social Sciences on a master of arts in social work.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The President of Brothers of Charity, René Stockman, was invited to speak at the opening session of the sixty-first annual conference of the Department of Public Information and non-governmental organizations, held in Paris in September 2008 and organized with the assistance of UNESCO and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Mr. Stockman addressed the situation of mental health care in the world. In December 2008, Brothers of Charity started cooperating with the World Bank.

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

Brothers of Charity has developed new psychiatric services in Africa and Asia to provide care for individuals who would otherwise be ostracized from society and live in poverty. The number of students enrolled in Brothers of Charity schools (both mainstream schools and schools aimed at individuals with special educational needs) has increased in Africa and Asia. The students enrolled in the special educational programmes (because they are deaf, blind, physically impaired or developmentally delayed) would not have had the opportunity to receive primary education.

11. Buddha's Light International Association

Special, 2003

Introduction

The Buddha's Light International Association was officially inaugurated in Los Angeles, California, United States, on 16 May 1992. The Association has over 200 chapters and millions of members worldwide, including in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as in Hong Kong, China, and Macao, China, and in Africa.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The mission of the Buddha's Light International Association is to propagate Buddhism globally. In the past, Buddhism was primarily confined to the regions of East and Central Asia owing to linguistic and communication barriers.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Buddha's Light International Association contributed \$75,000 to the sixty-first annual conference organized by the Department of Public Information and non-governmental organizations, held in 2008.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Buddha's Light International Association has participated in the following meetings: the forty-fifth session of the Commission for Social Development (7-16 February 2007); the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (26 February-9 March 2007); the sixtieth annual conference of the Department of Public Information and non-governmental organizations (5-7 September 2007); the forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development (6-15 February 2008); the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women (25 February-7 March 2008); the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (5-16 May 2008); the sixty-first annual conference of the Department of Public Information and non-governmental organizations (3-5 September 2008); the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2-13 March 2009); the sixty-second annual conference of the Department of Public Information and non-governmental organizations (9-11 September 2009); the forty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development (3-12 February 2010); the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (1-12 March 2010); the ninth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (19-30 April 2010); the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (3-14 May 2010); and the sixty-third annual conference of the Department of Public Information and non-governmental organizations (30 August-1 September 2010).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Through cooperation with the Permanent Mission of the Gambia to the United Nations, the Buddha's Light International Association organized a calligraphy exhibition at the Vienna International Centre, Austria.

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

In São Paulo, Brazil, the Buddha's Light International Association has provided food to more than 2,000 neighbourhood children, of whom 300 participate in a community soccer league two days per week since 2003. In Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, and in Paraguay, the Association provided 48 machines for the production of 160,000 litres of soya milk for 7,500 households per month.

In Paraguay, the Association worked with the Office of the First Lady to provide 262 machines that produced almost 2 million litres of soya milk for more than 20,000 people per day. The nutrient-rich remains of the soya beans were used to produce household bread. Also in Paraguay, 12 incubators for newborns were sponsored and installed in a free clinic and local health facilities. Since 2003, almost 3,000 newborns have received intensive care by using the incubators. The goal is to

provide free medical services to the poor. The hospital specifically serves pregnant women and children.

In Guangdong, China, 26 schools with new classrooms were reconstructed. In Poompuhar, India, a free tailoring training centre for women was established with 20 sewing machines. In addition, an educational centre for orphaned girls was established in 2007.

Additional information

The Buddha's Light International Association and its affiliated chapters in over 60 countries continue to promise to fully cooperate with the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies in the implementation of United Nations programmes. Given its membership network and its strong vision for the development of human society, in its role as non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, the Association will be a capable partner of the Council.

12. Bunyad Literacy Community Council

Special, 1999

Introduction

The Bunyad Literacy Community Council is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit organization that started promoting adult education and literacy among adolescent girls in 1992.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Bunyad Literacy Community Council envisions a literate, enlightened, tolerant and just society in which all individuals enjoy equal rights and have the same opportunity to realize their full potential.

Significant changes in the organization

More focus is currently being placed on community capacity-building, self-motivation and mobilization.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Bunyad Literacy Community Council has been working in approximately 500 villages in 50 union councils on various projects in Pakistan. The Council is currently working with the International Labour Organization (ILO), UNICEF and UNESCO on child rights and a social protection programme to combat child labour in the production of surgical instruments, carpets and soccer balls. It is involved in programmes aimed at raising awareness of child rights and in advocacy efforts aimed at avoiding the employment of children in hazardous occupations in Sialkot, Multan and Shiekhupura. The rehabilitation of camel jockeys in Rahim Yar Khan is another major project of the Council funded by UNICEF. With the support of the Ministry of Women's Development of Pakistan, Kushhali Bank and the Pakistan Poverty Alleviation Fund, the Council promotes women's economic and social empowerment through the formation of groups, literacy and skills training

opportunities and microcredit activities. Health and employment opportunities for women are also supported. A few hundred young women teachers, with the Council as harbingers of social change, have touched approximately 30,000 lives. The gender justice through Musalihat Anjuman project, which aims to provide women in rural areas with easy access to justice, was started in Bhawalpur in 107 union councils; the project is supported by the local government of Punjab and UNDP. Activities to improve the lives of women and children in rural areas, who face multidimensional problems, are best carried out with an integrated, holistic approach that takes into account literacy, microcredit schemes and health (including reproductive health), among other aspects, if a real difference is to be made; such an approach was adopted by the Council in its work in seven union councils in Pakistan. Several United Nations agencies support the work of the Council, including UNICEF, UNESCO, ILO (through its International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour) and UNDP. The Bunyad Literacy Community Council already has a training wing, a research and publications unit and a material development wing, and has constructed its own training sites. The Council has an experienced core team of master trainers who have provided training throughout Pakistan to both public and private agencies. Human resources development is an ongoing activity; emphasis is being placed on training trainers, building the capacity of communities and partnering with non-governmental and community-based organizations. The Bunyad Literacy Community Council collaborated with the Election Commission of Pakistan and UNDP in a democratization programme aimed at encouraging women to get their national identity cards so that they could participate in upcoming elections. Through the effort, the lives of more than 25,000 women in rural areas were touched. The Council has received two awards from UNESCO for outstanding work in the field of literacy and non-formal education.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Bunyad Literacy Community Council receives support from UNESCO for the implementation of a “mobile post-literacy” programme through which semi-literate adolescent girls and young women aged 15 to 25 were provided, through the Council’s centres, with “post-literacy” support through messages.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

See section above on the contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations.

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

The Millennium Development Goals have not yet been achieved in Pakistan but Bunyad Literacy Community Council has contributed to building the capacities of partner communities to make a visible difference in their lives, in line with the Goals.

Additional information

In 2010, the Bunyad Literacy Community Council reached out directly to 210,860 beneficiaries/clients. The Council aims to help people help themselves through capacity-building and networking, both with each other and the public sector.

13. Campaign Life Coalition

Special, 1999

Introduction

The Campaign Life Coalition is a Canadian-based grass-roots organization that works to restore the right to life, from conception to natural death, at all levels of government.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Campaign Life Coalition supports all measures to end anti-life practices, either directly or indirectly, that do not compromise its basic pro-life beliefs. The Coalition seeks to encourage the defence of the sanctity of human life against threats posed by abortion, euthanasia, doctor-assisted suicide, reproductive and genetic technologies, cloning, infanticide, eugenics, population control and threats to the family in the public forum. To do this, it hosts and organizes conferences, organizes public awareness campaigns and regularly contacts government officials and distributes relevant information to policymakers.

Significant changes in the organization

Owing to recent financial constraints, the Campaign Life Coalition has not been able to send as many representatives to participate in United Nations conferences as in the past. However, it has collaborated with a number of other like-minded organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council on producing research and training materials prior to conferences. The Coalition has been able to provide support for the translation of materials on right-to-life issues that partner organizations have disseminated at various meetings, for example the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the World Health Assembly of the World Health Organization.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Campaign Life Coalition has partnered with other non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to help organize events for the broader United Nations community. On 15 September 2010, the Coalition partnered with Focus on the Family, Life Ethics Educational Association and MaterCare International, among other non-governmental organizations, as well as with the permanent missions of Malawi and the Philippines to hold a side event on Millennium Development Goal No. 5, on improving maternal health, at which a panel of experts from around the world was organized.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives of the Campaign Life Coalition have provided Member States with information, educational materials and research when requested. In addition, they have attended and participated in numerous major United Nations conferences and meetings including the following: the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (26 February-9 March 2007); the fortieth session of the Commission on Population and Development (9-13 April 2007); the forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development (6-15 February 2008); the fifty-

second session of the Commission on the Status of Women (25 February-7 March 2008); the forty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development (7-11 April 2008); the high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS (8-10 June 2008); the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (2-13 March 2009); and the forty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development (30 March-3 April 2009). In addition, Campaign Life Coalition representatives attended the Women Deliver 2010 conference, held in Washington, D.C., from 7 to 9 June 2010 and the World Youth Conference, held in León, Mexico, from 24 to 28 August 2010.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Campaign Life Coalition has not worked directly with any United Nations agencies or bodies.

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

The Campaign Life Coalition was a host and organizer of a side event on Millennium Development Goal No. 5, on improving maternal health, in September 2010. The Coalition believes it is important to educate young people on the work of the United Nations, particularly with regard to Millennium Development Goals Nos. 2 to 5. It does so by organizing training sessions for its volunteers before they participate in United Nations meetings so that they can actively discuss and engage with the representatives of other non-governmental organizations, United Nations staff members and country representatives during conferences. From 2007 to 2010, the Coalition has trained over 50 young volunteers who have attended United Nations conferences as its representatives.

14. Caucus for Women's Leadership

Special, 2007

Introduction

The Caucus for Women's Leadership is a national network dedicated to building women's leadership at all levels.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and purposes of the Caucus for Women's Leadership are: to empower women and increase their participation in the National Assembly of Kenya, local authorities, political parties and other national policymaking organs, and to lobby and advocate for gender equity and equality in the executive, legislative and judicial branches.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2007, the Caucus for Women's Leadership changed its name from Kenya Women's Political Caucus, repositioning itself as a leading national and regional platform for women's empowerment.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Since it was established in 1997, the Caucus has worked with UNIFEM in East Africa and the Horn of Africa; it will continue that work with UN-Women.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives of Caucus for Women's Leadership attended the fifty-second to fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Caucus for Women's Leadership collaborated with UNDP, the African Union, Kenyan Government ministries, the Kenyan police and other national women's organizations on preparations for an event held in Nairobi in October 2010 to launch the African Women's Decade. In April 2010, a national conference for women in Kenya was held in preparation for the referendum on the constitution of 4 August 2010.

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

With regard to the general elections held in Kenya in 2007, the Caucus trained community activists to lobby for women's leadership, as a result of which two women were elected to Parliament and 48 women became councillors.

Through one of its women's regional assemblies, the Caucus resettled more than 100 women into their homes. The assemblies work in collaboration with the local governmental authorities, i.e. with the Luo council of elders, the administrative police (which has established a gender desk for orphans and vulnerable children) and infected women (who are encouraged to seek treatment). The regional assembly in Nakuru helps terminally ill parents to prepare "memory books" for their children.

Additional information

Through its women's regional assembly in Mombasa, every year on 8 March the Caucus holds a procession and a rally at the municipal stadium. Participating women then visit orphanages and children's homes and donate gifts. On 8 March 2010, the Mombasa women's regional assembly received monetary support from the Alliance Française for the event. On 8 March 2008, participating women visited widows who had returned, with the assistance of the Kisumu women's regional assembly, to their homesteads, after having been disinherited as a result of their spouse's death from HIV- and AIDS-related complications.

15. Centre for Democracy and Development**Special, 2003****Introduction**

The Centre for Democracy and Development was established in the United Kingdom in 1997. The purpose was to mobilize global opinion for democratic development and provide an independent space in which to reflect critically on the challenges posed to the democratization and development process in West Africa. The Centre set out to generate dialogue on alternative paths that are universally

relevant and yet sensitive to context. The Centre's activities have since grown, not only in Nigeria but in the rest of West Africa too.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Centre for Democracy and Development remains focused on capacity-building work and policy advocacy, and on acting as a reference point for research on democratic governance, human security and people-centred development. The mission of the Centre is to be the prime catalyst and facilitator for strategic analysis and capacity-building for sustainable democracy and development in West Africa.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The programmes and projects of the Centre for Democracy and Development are conceived and implemented to advance the economic, social and political rights of people in West Africa. Using the agreed United Nations conventions, declarations and treaties as benchmarks, the Centre advocates the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in Nigeria, as well as the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives of the Centre for Democracy and Development participated in and hosted a workshop held on 27 February 2007 at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York in parallel with the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women and participated in the launch, in 2008, of the "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" campaign of the Secretary-General. In addition, representatives of the Centre participated in the following:

- (a) The fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women;
- (b) The fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, at which a senior programme officer of the Centre made a presentation, at an expert panel, on regional perspectives in progress achieved and remaining gaps and challenges in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action;
- (c) A panel for the discussion of the Annual Ministerial Review of the Economic and Social Council on 9 March 2010;
- (d) The African Women's Caucus during the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;
- (e) The High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals held in September 2010.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Centre for Democracy and Development cooperated with UNIFEM on a project on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women (2006-2009) aimed at promoting the informed participation of citizens in the budget process. The Centre organized a series of policy dialogues in Nigeria and used one of the

dialogues to commemorate International Women's Day in March 2008. UNIFEM has supported the Centre in facilitating and hosting the Nigeria Gender Budget Network. The Centre also collaborated with UNDP on a project to promote civic participation and mandate protection in Nigerian elections, in 2007 and 2011. The Centre was involved in a policy dialogue, held in Abuja on 26 March 2009, to mark the 2009 edition of International Women's Day.

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

Building capacity for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals is one of the Centre's thematic areas. The Centre coordinated civil society's contribution to Nigeria's report for 2010 on the Goals and the *Countdown Strategy — 2010-2015: Achieving the MDGs*. The Centre currently chairs the "Global Call to Action against Poverty" Campaign in Nigeria, the focus of which is to mobilize action for the eradication of poverty and support the attainment of the Goals in Nigeria. The Director of the Centre is a member of the presidential committee on the Goals, the highest decision-making body for the Goals in Nigeria. Since 2006, the Centre has been tracking about \$6 billion in "debt relief gains" expended on projects and programmes (on health, education, poverty reduction and gender equality) targeted at fast-tracking achievement of the Goals in Nigeria. Books and booklets on the Centre's experiences and lessons learned have informed Government programmes and civil society advocacy initiatives on the Goals in Nigeria. The Centre has been involved in training civil society representatives, parliamentarians and financial executives in Ghana, Mali, Niger and Nigeria on gender-responsive budgeting (2006-2009) with support from Oxfam Novib. The Centre's project on strengthening budget transparency through public participation has enhanced the skills of civil society groups in West Africa to monitor Government programmes by using the Goals as a framework.
