

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General
18 October 2012

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations**2013 regular session**

21-30 January and 8 February 2013

**Quadrennial reports for the period 2008-2011 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. Society Studies Centre	3
2. Soroptimist International	5
3. South Asia Partnership International	7
4. Stichting Rutgers WPF	9
5. SustainUS.....	10
6. Talented Girl Students Trust.....	12
7. Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats.....	13
8. UMUT Foundation	15
9. United Methodist Church — General Board of Global Ministries	16
10. United Nations Association of China.....	18
11. Universal Networking Digital Language Foundation.....	20
12. Universal Peace Federation	22



13.	Vikash.	23
14.	Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund	24
15.	VIVAT International	26

1. Society Studies Centre

Special, 2008

Introduction

The Society Studies Centre was established in 2003 and registered in the Sudan. It works in the fields of social development, social peace, and human rights.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and purposes of the Society Studies Centre are to:

- (a) Promote society and achieve, foster and build social peace and security;
- (b) Devote attention to sustainable development, and human rights and prosperity, with a special focus on vulnerable groups, such as women and children;
- (c) Achieve social harmony, and reintegration, and remedy the situations of those affected by war, displacement and conflicts;
- (d) Focus on social, cultural and religious heritage and resources to face the complexities of poverty and its impact, environmental restoration, by preparing effective measures and policies, and investigate the destiny of social phenomena by studying and tracing social change;
- (e) Develop the potentials and resources of local and national institutions and entities, and document their efforts in developing society and individuals.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The contributions of the organization to the work of the United Nations include:

- (a) An evaluation study of alternative families, 2009;
- (b) A report on children and armed conflict in Darfur, 2009;
- (c) A study on unemployment and school drop-outs in Khartoum State, 2009;
- (d) A seminar on the issues of children with disabilities, held by the Centre in collaboration with the Child Rights Monitor and the Embassy of the Netherlands on 11 November 2009;
- (e) Establishment of the Sudan Human Rights Information Gateway (www.shrig.org) as a human rights project on the Internet;
- (f) Work with stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Council universal periodic review on the Sudan;
- (g) Training, awareness, advocacy and education on human rights issues and the preparation of periodic reports.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

2008

Sixty-first annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference on Human Rights (3-5 September, Paris);

Representatives of the Centre attended the ninth session of the Human Rights Council (8-24 September, Geneva) and submitted a written statement.

2009

Tenth session of the Human Rights Council (2-27 March, Geneva);

The Durban Review Conference, (20-24 April, Geneva);

Representatives of the Centre attended the eleventh session of the Human Rights Council (2-19 June, Geneva), submitted a written statement on agenda item 3 (Transition to democracy in the Sudan) and submitted an oral statement;

Representatives of the Centre attended the Fourth Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, under the slogan of participation in work and international cooperation (7-9 September, New York).

2010

Centre representatives attended the thirteenth session of the Human Rights Council (1-26 March, Geneva) and submitted a written statement on agenda item 3 (General election in the Sudan);

Representatives of the Centre attended the fifteenth session of the Human Rights Council (13 September-1 October, Geneva) and submitted a written statement.

2011

Forty-ninth session of the United Nations Commission for Social Development (9-18 February, New York);

Fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (22 February-14 March 2011, United Nations Headquarters, New York);

Representatives of the Centre attended the sixteenth session of the Human Rights Council (28 February-25 March, Geneva) and submitted a written statement;

Representatives of the Centre attended the seventeenth session of the Human Rights Council (30 May-17 June, Geneva) and submitted a written statement;

Representatives of the Centre attended the eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council (12-30 September, Geneva,) and submitted a written statement;

Fourth session of the Conference of States Parties (7-9 September 2011, United Nations Headquarters, New York).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

- The Society Studies Centre published a study on the Camel Race Children in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund in 2008
- The Centre participated in all activities organized by the United Nations Mission in the Sudan and attended the meetings of the independent expert.

2. Soroptimist International

General, 1984

Introduction

Soroptimist International works through action, awareness-raising and advocacy, mobilizing 90,000 members in 125 countries on priority topics identified by the United Nations.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2010 Soroptimist International began focusing on educating, empowering, and enabling opportunities to improve the lives of women and girls, reflecting the emphasis of the Economic and Social Council. The organization raises awareness of United Nations work through the Soroptimist International website, social media and monthly e-newsletter and publishes advocacy papers covering women's rights and development. As at December 2011, the organization had permanent representatives at six United Nations centres, namely, New York, Vienna, Geneva, Rome, Paris and Nairobi.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Between 2008 and 2011, Soroptimist International authored 15 statements, co-signed 56 statements and led or co-led 45 panels. Its representatives attended the 52nd, 53rd, 54th and 55th sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, co-hosting parallel events on topics such as microcredit and education. It attended the 61st, 62nd, 63rd and 64th Department of Public Information/NGO Conferences in Paris, Mexico, Australia and Germany, co-hosting workshops on landmines and women's health. The organization annually attends the meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna), the Committee on Food Security (Rome), and of UNESCO Executive Board (Paris).

Other highlights

2008

United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (Vienna, 13-25 February);

Thirty-second session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Dominican Republic, 9-13 June;

High-level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy (Rome, 3-5 June).

2009

Board Meeting of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (Bangkok, 23-25 February);

World Conference on Higher Education (Paris, 5-8 July);

Eighth African Regional Conference on Women (Banjul, 16-20 November).

2010

Economic and Social Council, High-level segment, (New York, 28 June-2 July). Statement entitled “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women” distributed;

Civil Society Development Forum, International Labour Organization (Geneva, 30 September-1 October). Oral intervention made on women and sustainable development;

World Food Day Observance (Rome, 16 October). Presentation made on the role of Soroptimist International in supporting hunger eradication.

2011

Economic and Social Council, High-level segment, (Geneva, 4-8 July). Oral and written statements were delivered on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education;

The Soroptimist International representative at the United Nations received United Nations Environment Programme funding to attend the consultation on engaging with major groups and stakeholders on Rio+20: the role of civil society in shaping the sustainable development agenda” (Bonn, 1 September).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Soroptimist International supported the 1 Billion Hungry Campaign, Say NO — UNiTE to End Violence Against Women, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, and the Blue Ribbon campaign, is a member of ‘Stop the Traffik’, and joined the Gender Equality Architectural Reform campaign in 2009. The organization coordinated a side event at the thirty-seventh session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), entitled “Women in agriculture: microcredit, land tenure and cooperatives”, in June 2011.

Written contributions include: UNESCO NGO Committee of the Executive Board: International Migration and the Social and Human Impact, March 2011; UNESCO: The International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, May 2010; Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): The Study of Discrimination Against Women, May 2010; OHCHR: The Protection of the Rights of the Child in the Context of Migration, May 2010; the Global Civil Society Consultation for the Millennium Development Goals +10 Summit, May 2010.

Soroptimist International held the following committee positions: 2009-2012: Comité de Liaison ONG-UNESCO; 2010-2011: Ad Hoc group of international NGO representatives; FAO. 2010-2011: NGO Working Group on human rights education and learning.

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

Soroptimist International’s projects advance many of the Millennium Development Goals: in 2009-2010 in Moldova, 120 boarding school children received life-skills training and 20 survivors of trafficking and domestic violence received reintegration assistance (Goals 2 and 3). In the 2007-2011 period, in Sierra Leone, the

organization supported 129 young mothers in completing education or vocational training, and reconciled 48 street children with families (Goals 2, 3, 4 and 5). Soroptimist clubs work on thousands of locally relevant service projects under Millennium Development Goals 1 to 7.

3. South Asia Partnership International

Special, 2004

Introduction

South Asia Partnership International is a southern-based, southern-led regional organization that has been promoting democracy, peace and governance in South Asia through civil societies in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. It was registered and established on October 1995. The organization is an integral part of South Asian Civil Society. Rooted among the national South Asian partnerships, it works in solidarity with global civil society. It comprises national South Asian partnership organizations in Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Canada. South Asia Partnership International was formed as a coordinating and facilitating body of the South Asia partnership network. The organization draws its strength from national South Asia partnerships who have a rich experience of working with the poor and marginalized in their respective countries to eradicate poverty and all kinds of exploitation. In the most complex situations, South Asia Partnership International strives to make the voice of the poor and marginalized in the region heard at national and international forums and aims at strengthening democracy and governance, peace and human security.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Vision: the people of South Asia are free from poverty and deprivation, living with dignity and enjoining peace and social justice.

Mission: to facilitate the civil society working together to achieve the rights and prosperity of people in a peaceful South Asia.

Goal: a vibrant civil society presence advocating and acting in cooperation across South Asia to achieve concrete advancement in human development and human security.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

South Asia Partnership International currently focuses its attention on addressing the issue of violence against women in politics and engendering democratic governance in South Asia.

In order to address the issues of violence against women in politics and engendering democratic governance, South Asia Partnership International has organized many regional and national programmes to increase sensitization on the former issue. Many women politicians, from grassroots to parliament members, judges, election commissioners, lawyers and civil society organization representatives, including media represented in the programmes, have been raising their voices on the issue and on gender-insensitive laws and practices by writing articles and cases on the issues, programmes and events. The organization has adopted the strategy of

streamlining its interventions in the arena of women in politics, violence against women, violence against women in politics and engendering democratic governance at all levels. As efforts towards promoting engendering democratic governance in South Asia, South Asian public forums and national programmes on violence against women in politics and engendering democratic governance were organized to sensitize the national and regional stakeholder.

South Asia Partnership International has conducted studies and reviewed the national laws and policies in South Asia related to women in politics, violence against women in politics and gender insensitivity in democratic governance. Based on these studies of the existing situation of South Asia, it has made recommendations about the policies and laws that should be incorporated in future constitutions, laws, and policies in South Asia. A common action plan was drafted and finalized with the aim of exploring areas of collaboration among different stakeholders so as to influence the international instruments and the Gender-Sensitive Democracy Charter on violence against women in politics and engendering democratic governance perspectives to promote safe, secure and meaningful participation of women in politics.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

South Asia Partnership International has successfully organized a parallel event on violence against women in politics, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 6 March 2010. The participants appreciated the shared information/presentation on violence against women in politics and shown interest in working towards reducing those issues. South Asia Partnership International has implemented a project funded by the United Nations Democratic Fund entitled “Engendering democratic governance” within this period, in order to promote gender-responsive democratic governance in South Asia by: (a) assessing national policies and monitoring practices of democratic institutions and State functionaries of Nepal, Bangladesh and Pakistan; (b) organizing national level discourses, discussions and dialogues on existing policies, provisions and practices of major national political parties and State institutions; (c) collecting community perspectives on the issues of gender-based exclusion, violence against women in politics and engendering democratic governance; (d) developing agendas, strategies and actions to address gender-insensitive undemocratic practices. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) has participated in the regional programmes organized for violence against women in politics and engendering democratic governance by contributing their papers on the issues.

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

South Asia Partnership International is supporting the achievement of Goal 3, Target 3.A of the Millennium Development Goals through its programme on violence against women in politics and engendering democratic governance in South Asia.

4. Stichting Rutgers WPF

Special, 2004

Introduction

Stichting Rutgers WPF tries to achieve its aims through awareness creation, education, resource mobilization, the provision of information and services and research. Apart from working in low and middle-income countries, Stichting Rutgers WPF works in the Netherlands itself.

Significant changes in the organization

In February 2011, Rutgers WPF was awarded International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification. The quality management system of Rutgers WPF was officially approved by Lloyds Register Quality Assurance Ltd., according to the ISO 9001 standard in 2008.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Rutgers WPF is committed to working towards the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action, which is part of the development agenda of the United Nations. All activities undertaken contribute to that same agenda.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

2008: Attended the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, (25 February-7 March) and the High-level Event on HIV/AIDS (New York, 10-11 June).

2009: Attended the forty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development (New York, 30 March-3 April). Submitted two written statements and spoke in plenary session.

2010: Attended the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, March 1-12). Signed on to two statements and spoke in plenary session; attended the Informal Interactive hearings of the General Assembly with NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector (New York, 14-15 June); attended the forty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development (New York, 12-16 April). Submitted two written statements and spoke in plenary session.

2011: attended the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (22 February-4 March) and submitted a written statement; attended the forty-fourth session of the Commission on Population and Development (New York, 11-15 April). Submitted two written statements and spoke in plenary session; attended the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on AIDS (New York, 8-10 June).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

UNICEF Pakistan: joint advocacy for inclusion of life skills education in national curriculum. Rutgers WPF Viet Nam participates in the Reproductive Health Affinity Group including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and

the World Health Organization (WHO). Rutgers WPF collaborated with UNESCO in relation to the document entitled “International technical guidance on sexuality education”, which was published December 2009, and its promotion. In Indonesia, Rutgers WPF collaborated with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on developing a concept note for the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis. In China, Rutgers WPF has done advisory work for WHO regarding the adolescent health policy.

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

Rutgers WPF contributed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by providing comprehensive sexuality education to 2,786,000 young people, training 15,530 teachers and counsellors to provide that sexuality education, and supporting 12,440 victims of violence. In the reporting period, Rutgers WPF worked in Indonesia, Pakistan, Viet Nam, Thailand, South Africa, Uganda, and Kenya with numerous partner organizations, including government, to achieve these results. Annually Rutgers WPF organizes the launch of the *State of World Population* report from UNFPA in the Netherlands. Every year of the period 2008-2011, Rutgers WPF has organized a campaign around Millennium Development Goal 5 in the Netherlands, related to Mothers Day, called “Mothers Night”. This concept was copied by a number of European countries and Pakistan.

Additional information

Rutgers WPF received the prestigious international Award for Excellence and Innovation in Sexuality Education in 2011.

5. SustainUS

Special, 2008

Introduction

SustainUS is a non-profit, non-partisan organization of young people advancing sustainable development and youth empowerment in the United States of America.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

SustainUS, through the Agents of Change programme, sends delegations of United States youth to United Nations conferences with the goals of building international youth capacity, raising domestic awareness about sustainable development, and advancing international policy toward sustainable development. SustainUS also facilitates international youth partnerships to strengthen youth involvement in the promotion of sustainable development policies. SustainUS Agents of Change alumni have created or supported the development of programmes, including the Indian Youth Climate Network, the International Youth Climate Movement, the Major Group of Children and Youth, Nepalese Youth for Climate Action, Caribbean Youth Environment Network, and Chinese-United States youth climate coalition.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

2008: SustainUS youth representatives attended the forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development (New York, 6-15 February), and presented the “Youth Caucus Statement” and “Promoting Full Employment and Decent Work for All”; the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 5-16 May); and the fourteenth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Poznan, Poland, 1-12 December).

2009: SustainUS youth representatives attended the forty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development (New York, 4-13 February); the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 4-15 May); the fifteenth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Denmark, 7-18 December) and held the side event “Youth Voices on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation”), presented a Chinese, Indian and United States Youth Joint Statement and a letter to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on youth participation.

2010: SustainUS youth representatives attended the forty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development (New York, 9-18 February); the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 3-14 May), where they presented a statement on sustainable transportation on behalf of youth; the tenth Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, 18-29 October), where SustainUS delivered the youth opening statement, and the sixteenth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Mexico, 29 November-10 December).

2011: SustainUS youth representatives attended the fiftieth session of the Commission for Social Development (New York, 1-10 February), the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 22 February-4 March); the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (New York, 2-13 May), New York) and presented the Waste Management Proposal”, and the side event entitled “Citizen Science: The Voice of Youth Connecting Science with Policy”); the seventeenth Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (South Africa, 28 November-9 December).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In 2009, SustainUS was asked by the United Nations to record its thoughts for delegates at the United Nations General Assembly meeting in September. SustainUS Agents of Change delegates recorded their thoughts on video for the United Nations. Also in 2009, youth at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change were granted official constituency status, giving formal recognition to their group of organizations. SustainUS sponsored and helped to submit the application for the youth constituency, including sponsoring one of the two youth focal points — liaisons to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat. Since then, three more SustainUS alumni have served as youth focal points.

In 2010, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat produced its own guide on youth participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiation process. The report featured many

photographs by SustainUS members and the work that the organization had done. SustainUS members have also served on the Youth Advisory Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

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

SustainUS has actively worked to achieve Millennium Development Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability, primarily through the advocacy of stronger policies both domestically and internationally. Some specific examples include:

- (a) Establishing a network to update and engage United States citizens on the policies being developed at the Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2009 and 2010;
- (b) Producing videos, such as “2020: It’s too late to wait” to call upon the United States Senate to address climate change;
- (c) Raising awareness around United Nations environmental events through sending press releases and generating hundreds of news stories and blog posts, including stories in international media outlets;
- (d) Discussing with the United States State Department its approaches to sustainable development.

6. Talented Girl Students Trust

Special, 2008

Introduction

Talented Girl Students Trust was established in May 1984 in Pakistan to assist girls seeking higher education.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Because of security considerations, local representatives of United Nations bodies live in a sanitized environment and are not readily available for cooperative efforts. It is equally difficult for NGOs to accept responsibility for the safety of United Nations personnel (particularly if they are foreigners) on field trips.

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

The organization’s activities are much the same as in previous years, but the focus remains on education (from primary to university level) of girls belonging to poor families. It is a matter of gratification that several of these girls after education are now gainfully employed and supporting their families. While the Trust could not undertake any new water supply scheme, owing to paucity of funds, it has taken two new initiatives towards poverty alleviation during the past three years:

- (a) The Trust has set up a Tandoor (bread-making facility) at Sihala suburbs of Islamabad) where bread is made available to the poor population of the area at Rs.2 as compared to market price of Rs5;

(b) The organization has successfully taken up cases for the granting of old age pensions to the widows of industrial workers with the Employees Old Age Benefit Institution. The pension varies between Rs3000 to Rs5000 per month, depending on the length of service of the worker. It may be added that many widows either do not know about their entitlement, or find it difficult to cut through bureaucratic formalities. The Trust intends to continue its efforts in that direction.

7. Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats

Special, 2004

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In the period under review, the Foundation continued to be an accredited NGO of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and a partner of UNEP and the UNEP-Mediterranean Action Plan.

The Foundation also continued to be a partner of the Drynet project (first phase, 2006-2009, and second phase 2011-2013). Drynet focuses on strengthening civil society networks to address dryland degradation and poverty issues in the context of strategic development frameworks with the participation of 15 NGOs from Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. Within the project:

2008

The Seminar on Civil Society in Combating Desertification, (Antalya, Turkey, 18-20 April) informed local NGOs about the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification processes and decided on common steps toward implementing the convention;

Strategic Campaigning Approach in Combating Desertification, Istanbul, 18 October, Hatay, 24 October, Ankara, Turkey, 28 October. The Foundation contributed actively to Turkey's Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Climate Change National Action Plan and to support the implementation of Turkey's National Action Plan to Combat Desertification.

The organization is a member of the National Coordination Committee to Combat Desertification and is lobbying for NGOs to be members of the Climate Change Coordination Committee. The Foundation has continued its leading role in the Day to Combat Desertification celebrations.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

2008: United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, seventh meeting of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention and the first special session of the Committee on Science and Technology (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-14 November). Side events: 6 November 2008, Drynet project entitled "Nomadic People and Biofuel"; 10 November 2008, Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats — "Tradition of Land Use in Anatolia: Man-made terraces from different Cultures" and

“Karapınar — An Anatolian Experience against Desertification”; Drynet project entitled “Role of Civil Society in the 10-Year Strategic Plan until COP9”.

2009: Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Copenhagen, 7-18 December).

2011: Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, (Durban, South Africa, 28 November-9 December); Tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification (Changwon, Republic of Korea, 10-21 October).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Foundation applied and became a participant to the Global Compact. It continued to support the UNEP Billion Tree Campaign in 2008 and has conducted meetings with UNESCO, FAO and the United Nations Development Programme.

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

2009: Fifth World Water Forum (Istanbul, Turkey, 16-22 March 2009).

2008: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October). A documentary screening and best practice story-sharing.

2009: The Foundation organized a workshop entitled “Effects of Climate Change on Land Degradation and Adaptation Options in Agriculture” within its AirClim-supported project (Ankara, 17 April 2009).

To support the Millennium Development Goals, the Foundation:

- Cooperates with international organizations: it is a member of: IUCN the IUCN Turkey national committee, Climate Action Network — Europe and the Global Water Partnership- Mediterranean and a partner of the Environment Forum, (2009-2011). It is an Executive Board Member of the Mediterranean Information Office for Education, Culture and Sustainable Development and the European Environmental Bureau.
- Translated and published 10 international books, including the *State of the World* series by the Worldwatch Institute between 2008-2011.
- Conducted 10 rural development and demonstration projects and planted nearly 5 million saplings and 40 million oak acorns through its forestation projects between 2008-2011. One example, Creation of Rational Opportunities for Conservation and Marginal Arid Lands (2009-2012) funded by Mitsui-co. adopts an integrated perspective to the problem of desertification and land degradation in arid lands. Another example is the Kaçkar Mountain Sustainable Forest Use and Conservation Project (2007-2011) which aims to preserve the natural forests, the biodiversity and the unique culture of the region and achieve higher income and social development in the community.
- Continued its efforts of awareness-raising through campaigns and education programmes targeting people with high multiplier effect in the society such as teachers, army officers, clergymen and Foundation volunteers.

8. UMUT Foundation

Special, 2004

Aims and purposes of the organization

The purpose is to “bring up young people, the guarantee of our future, as helpful to the development of our country and for the good of humanity by earning them the personality and skills to lead after Atatürk; following Atatürk’s understanding of ‘Peace in Country, Peace in World’, make them choose peaceful ways to settle disputes; teach and make individuals in this context internalize skills of compromising, maintaining and improving peace”.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Umut Foundation carried out bills of law and draft studies for combining the 6136 Law on Firearms, Knives and Other Similar Objects implemented since 1953 and the 2521 Law on Manufacturing, Transactions and Possession of Hunting Rifles, Knives and Target Shooting Rifles for Sport implemented since 1981 and unite them within the scope of the 91/477/AET Directive and European Union Adaptation process in the year 2009 as a consequence of the studies it started about the Law No. 6136 on Firearms, Knives and Other Similar Objects and subsequent defence activities though establishing commissions consisting of experts and lawyers in 2003, with the cooperation of Turkey Bar Association. However, since it was the election period the draft became caduceus before becoming a law. In the new legislative year, it will continue its studies with the same approach.

In 2009, the Umut Foundation Research Centre was established and since then has started to carry out all its academic studies under this centre. The centre’s objective is to make the centre a research institute with enough information resources to do research and publications in the fields of society, law and communication sociology.

In the fields of law and the superiority of law, which are among the important activity fields of the foundation, a Symposium for Youth of Law series has been organized since 2009, especially for the youth within the target audience of the foundation. With the aim of strengthening the belief in the superiority of law and resolving problems amicably, a symposium series, within which a different subject will be discussed every year, aims to establish a platform that will provide an opportunity for the youth of law, who will be the implementers of laws, to come together to discuss and share different opinions.

Local media seminars on the theme “Individual Disarmament and Violence News in Turkey” were started by the Hope Foundation, with the aim of ensuring that the fourth power media, starting from the local media, approach violence and individual armament cases with objective criticism, complying with professional requirements, have been ongoing since 2007. The seminar series carried out with the attendance of local media members from central provinces and nearby cities and organized in 11 central provinces and 59 nearby cities, including Diyarbakır, Rize, Eskişehir, Hatay, Kars, Gaziantep, Konya, Muğla, İzmir, Zonguldak and Bandırma, aims to be organized across Turkey. The Foundation has reached 750 local media members.

It is of vital importance to support and encourage the addition of the gender aspect to the studies on light weapons and integration of development, security and human rights policies and to ensure that women participates more efficiently in regional

and international processes concerning light weapons. The injuries suffered by women owing to the possession and misuse of weapons are inversely proportional to the injuries they sustain as a gun holder or user. In regions where there are no clashes, women are frequently shot by a friend, husband or close friend, and the probability for a gun to be kept in the house to be used against the house holder is higher than the probability for it to be used against the an intruder. Therefore, with the contributions of the International Action Network on Small Arms and Holland Consulate, an international meeting, where the effects of the violence against women were discussed, was held so as to attract attention to the gender aspect of armament. The meeting aimed at informing, commissioning the woman activists about the subject and establishing a platform about the violence in Turkey against woman.

9. United Methodist Church — General Board of Global Ministries

Special, 2000

Introduction

The General Board of Global Ministries is the global mission agency of the United Methodist Church. It works with the poor and marginalized to alleviate suffering and promote justice, freedom and peace. The integral part of the Board's mission is to enable United Methodist congregations to put love into action through integrated programmes that support sustainable livelihoods, agriculture, food security, stewardship of natural resources and the environment, education, microfinance, enterprise development, supplemental food programmes, and advocacy. Engages in programmes and projects related to women, children and youth in the United States and globally, through United Methodist Women, which is the lay women's organization of The United Methodist Church with 800,000 members engaged in mission and advocacy around the world.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The General Board of Global Ministries connects the church in mission, equipping and transforming people and places for God's mission around the world by making disciples of Jesus Christ; strengthening, developing, and renewing Christian congregations and communities; alleviating human suffering; seeking justice, freedom, and peace.

Significant changes in the organization

There has been no change that has had a significant impact on the organization.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The General Board of Global Ministries, through its United Methodist Women:

- Submitted document to the United Nations regarding concerns of rural women
- Co-drafted an NGO statement on migrant women for the Beijing+15 commemorations

- Led international delegations to civil society activities in Mexico and Switzerland in 2010 and 2011 related to the Global Forum on Migration and Development
- Co-organized civil society women's caucus as a part of side events, leading to a Women and Global Migration working group representing all global regions
- Participated in the Global Migration Group Symposium at the invitation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN- Women) and UNICEF
- Participated in the symposium on Migration and Youth: Harnessing Opportunities for Development panel on enhancing the Contributions of Young Migrants to Development". The symposium was a contribution to the International Year of Youth.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

- Commission on the Status of Women
- Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Global Forum on Migration and Development Civil Society Days
- Commission on Sustainable Development
- High-level Meeting on Youth
- Informal thematic debate on international migration and development
- Commission on Social Development
- Informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector
- World Conference Against Racism, tenth anniversary commemoration
- Copenhagen climate negotiations 2009
- United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ("Rio+20") as an accredited NGO.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The General Board, through its United Methodist Women, collaborated with UN-Women on a joint side event to the 2011 session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the ILO domestic workers' convention. It co-sponsored the civil society monitoring of Security Council 1325 (2000), in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Canada and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders. The findings and recommendations were presented at a panel discussion during the celebration of the eleventh anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in the last week of October 2011 in New York City, and was open to United Nations Member States and agencies, civil society and other stakeholders in the women, peace and security community. In observance of the International Day of Rural Women and World Food Day, the organization's United Methodist Women and its partners organized two panel discussions on the role of rural women in agriculture, food security and ending violence against women; speakers included Aldijana Sisic, campaign manager of UNiTE to End Violence Against Women, Sharon Brennen-

Haylock, senior liaison officer for the FAO liaison office to the United Nations, and Arrmanatha Nasir, first secretary at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Indonesia to the United Nations, who discussed food security at the United Nations General Assembly level. In partnership with Global Action on Ageing, a long-time advocate for the rights of older persons, the General Board's United Methodist Women, have co-sponsored meetings of the Open-ended Working Group in their efforts to create a human rights treaty on ageing for the near future.

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

The General Board works globally through direct funding to women's organizations in global South seeking to combat poverty, AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Environmental sustainability is a central priority of the organization and includes education and advocacy at the local, national and global levels. It participated in the Copenhagen climate negotiations and in Rio+20. The organization works through funding, leadership development and advocacy to advance gender equality globally. Work on global economic development through direct funding in the global South; advocacy around financing for development; debt and trade. It facilitated information to NGOs and indigenous peoples from the Global South on the Millennium Development Goals.

10. United Nations Association of China

General, 2000

Significant changes in the organization

The United Nations Association of China has put the work of training and studies of the United Nations at the top of its agenda, and intends to provide more intellectual support to build a stronger United Nations and a closer China-United Nations relationship and to deepen the understanding of young people of the United Nations and its work.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

2008-2011: The Association frequently organized lectures on the United Nations and its work across China. Representatives were frequently interviewed and published many articles on the United Nations in the various media. The work has improved the understanding of the Chinese public about the mission of the United Nations. The United Nations Association of China organized the annual nation-wide Human Rights Knowledge Competition in 2008, 2009 and 2010, which increased the awareness of the Chinese public on human rights. The Association organized the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth China National Model United Nations Conference in Xiamen (2008), Beijing (2009), Chongqing (2010), and Changsha (2011), and supported hundreds of Model United Nations activities.

2008: The Association organized two seminars on the "United Nations Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review"(Beijing, 21 June and 12 August, respectively); two seminars on "China and the United Nations" (Beijing, 19 September and Shanghai, 18-20 November, respectively); and published United Nations: Towards a Harmonious World (Beijing, September).

2009: The United Nations Association of China organized the seminar on “China’s United Nations Diplomacy” (Beijing, 4-5 June; and published China’s United Nations Diplomacy (Beijing, October).

2010: The Association organized year-round lectures on the United Nations. Representatives attended the meeting on climate change (Beijing, 10-11 June).

2011: On 9 March, the Association established the China Academic Net of United Nations Studies in Beijing, aimed at strengthening studies on the United Nations. It organized two academic seminars in commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Restoration of the Lawful Seat of the People’s Republic of China in the United Nations (Shanghai, 31 May and Beijing, 25 June, respectively); co-hosted the fourth Lanting Forum under the same theme (Beijing, 2 September); organized the 2011 International Civil Servants Capacity-Building Training and the Human Rights Knowledge Training (Beijing, 11-18 July and 26-27 July, respectively); organized the Second China-Japan-Republic of Korea Youth Forum with the theme of the United Nations and East Asia Partnership (Chengdu 24-27 September); co-hosted the Round table on Climate Change (New Delhi, 2 November); co-hosted the Second Dag Hammarskjöld Symposium (Beijing, 1 December).

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

2009: Representatives attended the forty-seventh session of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) (Paris, 29-30 January; the eleventh session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (Geneva, 2-19 June).

2010: Representatives attended the thirteenth session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (Geneva, 15-19 March; the sixty-third United Nations DPI/NGO Annual Conference (Australia, 28 August-2 September; and the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (Cancun, 29 November-5 December).

2011: Representatives attended the High-level Symposium on the United Nations Conference on Climate Change held by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (Beijing, 8-9 September); the fifty-first session of the Board of Trustees of UNITAR (Brazzaville, 21-22 November).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

2008-2011: The United Nations Association of China and the United Nations system in China co-sponsored United Nations Day receptions every October in Beijing.

2009: The Association and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS China Office co-sponsored the first Model United Nations Conference of Universities (Tianjin, 26 November).

2010: The organization and the United Nations system in China co-hosted the Round table on Climate Change (Beijing, 28 October); co-sponsored a welcome banquet for Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (Beijing, 2 November).

2011: The organization and the United Nations system in China co-hosted a lecture by Sir Richard Jolly, former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General (Beijing, 12 January); and the Commemoration Symposium on the fortieth Anniversary of the Restoration of the Lawful Seat of the People’s Republic of China in the United Nations (Chengdu, 19-20 September).

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

2008-2011: The United Nations Association of China raised funds to establish the Huoshan Primary School in Jinping, a poverty-stricken county of Yunnan Province in southwest China in 2008. The construction of the school was started in October 2008 and completed with full facilities, including classrooms, dormitories, bathrooms, a canteen and a playground in August 2010.

2011: The Association co-hosted the China Week of Millennium Development Goals in cooperation with the China Wisdom Engineering Association (Beijing, December).

11. Universal Networking Digital Language Foundation**Special, 2004****Introduction**

The mission of the Universal Networking Digital Language Foundation is to develop the Universal Networking Language, a multilingual infrastructure that enables people to overcome the language barriers across ethnic communities and countries. This initiative was launched by the United Nations University's Institute of Advanced Studies in Tokyo in 1996, and entrusted to the Foundation by the United Nations in 2001. The Universal Networking Language invention was patented in the name of the United Nations in order to keep it as a patrimony of humankind. To date, five patents have been granted to it: two by the United States of America, one by China and two by Japan. They are the first patents ever granted to the United Nations. The Universal Networking Language is an Interlingua for computers that allows extremely efficient translation in multiple languages and very advanced tools for navigation in knowledge systems. The mission and long-term objectives are to develop and deploy all kinds of multilingual products and services that can be provided on the Universal Networking Language infrastructure.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Continuous development and improvement of the core Universal Networking Language linguistic resources and supporting software and making it available to all United Nations Member States.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Foundation has the goal and duty to promote and develop the Universal Networking Language on behalf of the United Nations. This relationship is formalized in an official agreement that was signed in October 2005 with the United Nations. It also implies defending the Universal Networking Language patents, which are in its custody in the name of the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives attended World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (Geneva, 17 May 2008) The organization's Communication Director attended the Internet Governance Forum (Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, 15-18 November 2009).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

On 19 May 2009, the Foundation's President met with the new Rector of the United Nations University (UNU), Konrad Osterwalder. On 23 February 2010, in Tokyo, a full meeting was held between the Rector of UNU and representatives of the Foundation, including its President, Vice-President and one of its directors. A long-term partnership was initiated in 2006 with UNESCO for the translation, of the Encyclopaedia of Life Support Systems (EOLSS) into multiple languages. The largest online encyclopaedia in the world, with more than 120,000 pages on the web, and growing constantly, EOLSS deals with the natural Environment in connection with economic and social development. The massive volume of knowledge is being developed under the auspices of the UNESCO.

Several meetings were held between teams of the Foundation and the UNESCO Division for Science Policy and Sustainable Development. A special Conference was held in Abu Dhabi between representatives of UNESCO, the EOLSS Committee and the Foundation (20 November 2009). The Foundation's President held a meeting with UNESCO on 22 March 2010 to discuss the EOLSS Translation project and other topics of mutual interest.

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

Goal 3: Facilitating access to knowledge is a way to empower women's role in the society, as well as reduce child mortality and increase maternal health. The Foundation's multilingual platform constitutes a powerful mechanism for providing technical assistance to local communities in their native languages.

Goal 7: The translation of EOLSS into multiple languages represents a significant contribution to this goal. The encyclopaedia provides a firm knowledge base for future activities to prolong the lifetime of the human race in a hospitable environment. A comprehensive and coherent body of knowledge to preserve life on Earth and to ensure sustainable development is needed.

Goal 8: By providing peoples from different linguistic backgrounds with the Universal Networking Language platform, the Foundation enables them to communicate with each other in their mother language, thus facilitating reciprocal knowledge, mutual understanding, solidarity and cooperation in common development endeavours.

Additional information

Multilingualism Day was observed by the Foundation on 21 February from 2008 to 2011 (International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1999 and has since been observed annually on 21 February).

12. Universal Peace Federation

Special, 2004

Introduction

The Universal Peace Federation is a global network of over 100,000 individuals and organizations organized in 154 national chapters.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Federation promotes peace through interfaith dialogue, human development, poverty eradication, leadership training and peacemaking skills.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Federation organized the following events:

(a) Three conferences on “Interfaith Cooperation and the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity” at the United Nations in Geneva on 23 September 2008; at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 2 December 2009; and at the United Nations in Geneva on 25 and 26 March 2010;

(b) Six conferences on peace, security and reconciliation: New York, 18 May 2009; India, 16 September 2009; Vienna, 31 December 2009; New York, 6 February 2010; United Nations, 18 March, 2010; and India, 3 November 2011;

(c) Three conferences for women’s issues: India, 8 March 2010 and 2011; and New York, 16 May 2011;

(d) In partnership with the African Union, two events in New York: on “Peace and Security in Africa”, on 25 May 2010, with keynote speaker Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; and on “Africa and the Diaspora”, with keynote speaker General Assembly President Joseph Deiss, on 31 May 2011, for 600 dignitaries.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Federation representatives participated in 67 meetings of various agencies including: Economic and Social Council, New York, Geneva (2008, 2009); World Conference on Financial Crisis, London (2009), Commission on the Status of Women, New York (2008-2011) and programmes on Youth, HIV, Women, Human Rights, Millennium Development Goals in Moscow, Vienna, Melbourne, Quito, Kathmandu, Amman, Dakar, Harare, Tbilisi, and New Delhi. Statements were made on interfaith (8 February 2011), human rights (12 June 2009), the financial crisis (1 June 2009), the Millennium Development Goals (22 September 2010), and the family (15 May 2011).

The Federation held three parallel events during the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women: New York, 2 and 9 March 2010 and 2011.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Federation partnered with the following agencies: UNESCO for events in: Paris, 3 March 2009; Nepal, 14-21 September 2010; Saint Lucia, 21 September 2010; Bangladesh, 29 November 2010. United Nations Environment Programme for

Climate Change Conference, London, 2 September 2009; World Food Programme for “Walk the World”, Cairo, 6 June 2009; United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, event in Geneva, 23 September 2009; United Nations Development Fund for Women, event in Ecuador, 21 September 2010; United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, football competition in Jordan, 21 September 2010; International Organization for Migration, conference on “Multiculturalism and Peace”, Geneva, 23 September 2011. United Nations information centres for events in 2011: Czech Republic, 26 May; Bangladesh, 14 May; Zimbabwe, 21 September; Vienna, Austria, 3 July; Bangladesh, 3 May; Georgia, Russian Federation, 24-25 October; India, 30 September.

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

The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals by organizing programmes for:

HIV/AIDS prevention in Honduras, India, Solomon Islands (2008); Jamaica, South Africa, Solomon Islands (2009); Burkina Faso, Angola, Russian Federation (2010); Swaziland, Saint Lucia, Venezuela, Moldova (2011).

Environmental projects: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Mali, Lebanon (2008); Russian Federation, Kenya, India (2009); Malaysia, Russian Federation, Israel (2010), India, Kenya, Russian Federation (2011).

Renovation of primary schools: Guatemala (2008); Jamaica, Cambodia, India (2009); Thailand, Jamaica, Saint Lucia (2010); Nepal, Thailand, Solomon Islands (2011).

Poverty eradication: Nepal (2008); Nepal, India (2009); Haiti (2010); Kenya (2011). International Days observed: International Day of Peace (2008: 58 countries; 2009: 40 countries; 2010: 59 countries; 2011: 68 locations), International Day of Families (2009: 60 locations; 2010: 40 countries; 2011: 47 nations), International Women’s Day (2010: 11 countries); International Year of Reconciliation: (2008-2009, 6 countries), World Interfaith Harmony Week (2011: 23 countries), and ten other international days.

13. Vikash

Special, 2008

Introduction

Vikash, established in 1986, has become a leading NGO in Odisha, working towards achieving sustainability in developmental pursuits and protection of the rights of people. Vikash believes that development can take place with the communities’ own efforts and that Vikash only needs to facilitate the process. It believes in the strength and power of the people — the toughest task is only to make the community realize and explore their own strengths. With an innovative approach to development, Vikash tries hard to help people to help themselves without imposing any development programmes on them. In the process, Vikash intends to strengthen and support community structures and local institutions. Vikash believes in human initiative, strength and innovativeness, rather than charity. Vikash believes that

“small is beautiful”, but at the same time it realizes that small things can perish without making much contribution to the whole. Like streams coming together to form a river, the growth of great civilizations come from a network of small initiatives — their overall joint effort realizing more significance. Vikash has designed its line of action to work in large areas, while maintaining the beauty and sanctity of small things. With a strong determination to serve the people in need, Vikash spreads its activities over 15 districts of the State. As time spreads its wings to the infinite, Vikash aims to spread its initiative beyond the boundaries of its current work.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Right to a quality education
Right to basic health services
Right of disabled persons to equal opportunities
Right to live with dignity
Right to a good habitat
Right to sustainable livelihood
Right to good governance

14. Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund**Special, 2004****Introduction**

The Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund provides small grants for grass-roots projects that empower women and girls in developing countries and that enhance their opportunities within their local communities through the promotion of gender equality, educational equity, better health, and economic sustainability.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization funds projects throughout the developing world, including emerging democracies, that address local needs and improve opportunities for girls and women, including education, skills and literacy, maternal and reproductive health care, sexual and reproductive rights, campaigns against domestic violence and awareness programmes and projects related to HIV/AIDS and malaria.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Board and Committee members attended sessions held in New York in July 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Participation was supported through NGO committees on women and on migration.

Fund representatives met with the President of the General Assembly regarding NGOs in 2010 and 2011.

On 19 May 2011, Board members and an intern attended the thematic debate on international migration and development.

The coordinating meetings held by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance on Fridays in New York, beginning in March 2011, have been attended by a Board member and interns.

United Nations Committee members attended Thursday morning briefings of the Department of Public Information all four years and filed reports.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

- Third Committee of the General Assembly in New York, 2008 to 2011. Discussions of women's issues were attended by United Nations Committee members
- Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The New York sessions held in July of each year were attended by members of the Board and the United Nations Committee
- Economic and Social Council, meetings held in New York in July 2008 and 2010, were attended by Board and United Nations Committee members
- On 25 and 26 July 2011, the New York, High-level Meeting on Youth was attended by a Board member and a United Nations Committee member
- UN-Women. Board members attended the first executive session, held in New York from 24 to 26 January 2011, and the second session, held in New York on 27 June 2011
- On 7 and 8 December 2011, a United Nations Committee member attended the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

- Meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women: fifty-second session (New York, 25 February-7 March 2008); fifty-third session (New York, 2-13 March 2009); fifty-fourth session (New York, 1-12 March 2010); and fifty-fifth session (New York, 22 February-4 March 2011). Delegations of 20 persons attended each, including the President, Executive Director and Board members. Parallel events were offered each year and speakers provided for NGO events, including a grantee from Fiji in 2011.
- United Nations Committee members participated each year in parts of meetings of the Committee on NGOs, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Commission on Population and Development and the Commission on Social Development in New York each year.

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

- The organization funded more than 120 grants, with more than \$615,000 during the past four years. Those grants support the Millennium Development Goals established in 2000 that relate to and affect women. Most grants were made to organizations in the Africa and Asia-Pacific regions

- Grants training for NGOs attending the Commission on the Status of Women from outside the United States has been held for two years and will be expanded
- A grantee from a developing country was brought in from Fiji for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

Additional information

- Meetings attended are numerous, as the Fund participates in many held in New York. Unfortunately the team is not able to cover meetings held outside United Nations Headquarters. The Fund has begun to use interns to assist in covering the work of the United Nations, publicizing it through Facebook, Twitter, blogs and its website as a commitment to youth and development
- Provided leadership to the NGO Committee on UNICEF
- Provided support to the NGO Committee on the Status of Women through its Planning Committee in 2010 and 2011.

15. VIVAT International**Special, 2004****Introduction**

VIVAT International is an organized network on social justice, development, peace and ecology.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

VIVAT served on New York-based NGO Committees, as follows: member and secretary, Financing for Development; Communications Secretary, Second Decade for Indigenous Peoples; Steering Committee, Working Group on Girls; Executive Team, Human Rights; Core Team, Stop Trafficking in Persons; Founding member, Working Group on Mining; and member, HIV/AIDS and Migration. It organized a signature campaign supporting the Social Protection Floor Initiative; facilitated discussions among members and contributed to the consultation on the draft Guiding Principles on human rights and extreme poverty; and conducted grass-roots consultations on social integration.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

VIVAT representatives participated in the sessions of the Economic and Social Council Functional Commissions on Social Development; the Status of Women; and Sustainable Development; Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, Doha 2008; United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznan, December 2008; Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Salvador, Brazil, April 2010; eighteenth International AIDS Conference in Vienna, July 2010; Global Migration Group Symposium “Migration and Youth: Harnessing Opportunities for Development”, New York, May 2011, organized by the Global Migration Group and UNICEF; the informal interactive civil society hearing (the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries), April 2011; contributed suggestions

to the Outcome documents for the forty-sixth to forty-ninth sessions of the Commission on Social Development; the fifty-second to fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women; and the seventeenth to nineteenth sessions of the Commission on Social Development. VIVAT submitted written statements at the annual ministerial review (E/2010/NGO/69); and the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Social Development(E/CN.5/2011/NGO/17).

Organized side events:

- Indigenous Peoples' Spirituality and the Earth, New York, 5 January, 2008
- Mother Earth Day event, New York, 22 April 2009; screening of Dorothy Stang documentary, 6 May 2009
- Social Inclusion in Mining Practices: Free, Prior and Informed Consent, 8 February 2010
- Mining and Gender Justice: Rights and "Re-Sisters", 10 March 2010
- Poverty and Climate Change — Voices from Government, the Grass roots, and NGOs, 14 February 2011
- Spoke at the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development side event on mining, 3 May 2010
- "Land Yes! Dam No! Successful Cycles of Mobilization", 4 May 2010
- "Promoting Social Integration: Voices from the Grass roots", 15 February 2011.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

VIVAT participated in all the Human Rights Council sessions between 2008 and 2011. Members received training in Geneva during Human Rights Council sessions, attended meetings of the universal periodic review working group sessions 6 to 11; attended the International Labour Organization conference (Palais des Nations, Geneva, 2010). VIVAT submitted a written statement to the Human Rights Council at its twelfth session, under agenda item 9, Human rights and indigenous communities (A/HRC/12/NGO/26). The organization co-sponsored a statement at the eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council in September 2011(A/HRC/18/NGO/11). It submitted a report to James Anaya, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, in July 2010. VIVAT participated in the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, Japan, 2010), and organized two side events, namely: I.D. 2188 and I.D. 2189, on 26 and 27 October, respectively. The organization contributed information to the Secretary-General's Panel of Experts on Sri Lanka, 2010; initiated and organized with the Department of Public Information/NGO Relations an NGO briefing entitled "Indigenous Rights, Mining and Development: The Need for Free, Prior and Informed Consent", 28 April, 2011. It participated in Department of Public Information/NGO Conferences in Paris, 2008, Mexico, 2009; Australia, 2010; and Bonn, 2011.

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

VIVAT contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, Oceania, the Americas and Europe:

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: persons benefited: 34,892
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education: education provided to 253,465 children
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women: women and girls educated through life skills: 53,729; job skills training provided to 43,865; immunization, pre/post-natal care provided to: 18,234
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: beneficiaries of awareness/prevention of HIV/AIDS: 26,397,614; outreach to HIV-infected persons: 24,813; recipients of malaria treatment: 124,963; recipients of antiretroviral therapy: 10,745.
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability: 449,016 trees were planted; awareness- raising efforts reached approximately 1.2 million individuals.

Additional information

VIVAT, through its website, published quarterly newsletters providing information concerning commissions, meetings and activities of the United Nations. In addition, the organization shared grass-roots involvement of members on United Nations priorities. Through regional workshops held in Brazil, July 2008; Bolivia, July 2009; Kenya, January 2010; United States, April 2010; Ecuador, October 2010; India, August 2011; Democratic Republic of the Congo, August 2011, VIVAT presented information on the United Nations, its basic structures and procedures, VIVAT interaction with and contributions to United Nations entities, particularly the Economic and Social Council and the role of NGOs. VIVAT encouraged initiatives supporting the International Day of Peace, Human Rights Day; the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty and World AIDS Day.
