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### **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**

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## **1. Hong Kong Federation of Women**

### **Special, 2000**

#### **Introduction**

The Hong Kong Federation of Women, established in 1993, is a non-profit and non-political organization with over 1,500 individual members and 64 corporate members, reaching a total membership of 100,000. The organization was granted an additional lease of land by the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the Hong Kong Federation of Women T.S. Kwok Service Centre was completed in 2010. The organization has maintained an excellent relationship with All China Women's Federation since 1993.

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The main objectives of the organization are to unite women from all walks of life, study and make presentations on community affairs, improve and protect the lawful rights and status of women and liaise with similar organizations worldwide.

#### **Significant changes in the organization**

An extraordinary general meeting was held in January 2011 to increase the maximum number of Council members from 45 to 54 in view of the growth of the organization.

#### **Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

The organization:

(a) Invited over 500 women leaders in 2009 from China and the Asia-Pacific region to participate in the Asia-Pacific Women Forum in August. Speakers included politicians, scholars, government officials and professionals. Held on the theme "Women's role in the changing world", the Forum covered such topics as education, environmental protection and the social and political arenas;

(b) Organized a Beijing+15 Forum on the Status of Women in August 2010 to review the implementation of the Beijing Declaration. Forum panellists and over 160 delegates shared their views about the challenges faced by women;

(c) Organized a Beijing+15 commemoration/meeting on the leadership of women and economic development in the post-crisis era in Shanghai, China, September 2010. Over 150 female leaders from various nations discussed the contributions made by women during the world's economic crises;

(d) Organized a drama competition for secondary students in November 2010, promoting the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women among young people;

(e) Promoted, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in November 2010 through radio/television programmes, newspaper supplements and an outdoor ceremony.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

Representatives of the organization:

(a) Attended the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York and convened an open forum at the parallel event on the theme “Empowerment and leadership training for young women”, reporting on the challenges that women in Hong Kong, China, have encountered in employment, marriage and social participation. Over 100 participants attended and responded actively at the event;

(b) Attended the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. All China Women’s Federation invited the organization to co-host a parallel event on the theme “The financial and economic crisis from a gender perspective”. The organization’s delegation brought back news on the Economic and Social Council and the Millennium Development Goals to share with non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization donated HK\$1,200,000 (US\$153,800) in 2009 to All China Women’s Federation for the publication and promotion of a book and training materials on a “green consuming guide”, a joint venture of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the China Women’s Development Fund under the All China Women’s Federation.

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

The organization donated over HK\$1,000,000 (US\$128,200) to victims of earthquake disasters in China; built four rural clinics in Chongqing, China, for women’s health; and worked in partnership with local women professional NGOs to hold the Ripple Action. Since 2008, nearly 30 activities were held to care for underprivileged people in poor areas in Hong Kong, China, including visits to the elderly, free check-ups to poverty-stricken women, free hotline counselling for legal advice and marriage disputes, setting up mentor teams for youth education, and services to families from ethnic minorities.

## **2. Human Lactation Center**

### **Special, 2000**

#### **Introduction**

The Human Lactation Center is a non-profit organization with worldwide influence that addresses issues affecting the welfare of women and children, such as breastfeeding, supportive behaviour (doula), sexual abuse and ritual abuse and torture.

#### **Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

The organization contributes to the work of the United Nations by participating in professional forums, organizing conference presentations, writing, conducting research and responding to information on breastfeeding and supportive behaviour. It addresses infant nutrition by promoting its research findings that a supportive

person (a “doula”) for a breastfeeding mother helps her to maintain sufficient milk. The term “doula” was introduced in America through the work of the organization and has become commonplace, with over 6 million hits on Google. It is now used for a supportive person in health care, hospices and prisons. In addition, the organization’s research on childbirth revealed a relationship between trauma and sexual abuse, which led to education on ritual abuse and torture of women and children worldwide.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization contributed to the work of the United Nations by attending the following meetings, among others:

- Fifty-second to fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. It also attended many related side events and meetings.
- Planning and monthly meetings of the Women’s Task Force on Global Climate Change from 2008 to 2011.
- Monthly meetings of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns from 2008 to 2011.
- Meetings of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Mental Health from 2008 to 2011.
- Seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, side event on the theme “Protecting health from climate change”, 5 May 2009.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization focused most of its efforts by partnering with other organizations and individuals working directly with survivors of sexual abuse and torture internationally. In addition, it continued to be a clearing house of information for breastfeeding and all aspects of supportive behaviour.

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

The organization’s work addressed three of the Millennium Development Goals: maternal health, child health and infant nutrition relating to breastfeeding.

## **3. Humane Society of the United States**

### **General, 1996**

#### **Introduction**

The Humane Society of the United States strives to create a humane and sustainable world for all animals, including people.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

In respect of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, the organization:

- (a) Attended the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Doha, 13-25 March 2010), during which it advocated for the maintenance or increase in

protection of polar bears, frogs, bobcats, sharks and elephants. Protections for African elephants and bobcats were retained, while new protection was granted for the Kaiser's newt, Agalychnis tree frogs, spiny-tailed iguanas and Madagascar plants;

(b) Participated in the twenty-third to twenty-fifth meetings of the Animals Committee (Geneva, 19-24 April 2008, 20-24 April 2009 and 18-22 July 2011, respectively) and provided technical expertise to help formulate new biological criteria for listing species and legal analysis on best practices;

(c) Participated in the fifty-seventh to sixty-first meetings of the Standing Committee (Geneva, 14-18 July 2008; Geneva, 6-10 July 2009; Doha, 12 March 2010; Doha, 25 March 2010; Geneva, 15-19 August 2011) and provided technical expertise and legal analysis;

(d) Participated in the International Expert Workshop on Non-Detriment Findings (Cancun, Mexico, 17-22 November) and served on the Workshop Steering Committee.

In respect of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the organization:

(a) Attended the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties as an adviser on the Australian Government delegation (Bonn, Germany, 19-30 May 2008);

(b) Attended the tenth session to promote greater linkages between climate change and biodiversity (Nagoya, Japan, 18-29 October 2010).

In respect of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, the organization attended the fourth to sixth meetings of the Protocol (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 10 May 2010; Saint Johns, Antigua and Barbuda, 8 September 2008; Gosier, Guadeloupe, France, 2 July 2008) to achieve greater protection for the relevant species. Precautionary, science-based listing criteria for appendices were adopted, as was a marine mammal action plan. A working group on criteria for exemptions was also established.

In respect of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the organization:

(a) Attended the sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Groups on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention and on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (Bonn, Germany, June 2008) to promote outcomes relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD). In 2008, it also attended climate change talks and promoted REDD outcomes (Accra, August) and the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (Poznan, Poland, December) to ensure that forest degradation was the core objective of the REDD mechanism;

(b) Attended the sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Ad Hoc Working Groups on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention and on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol to promote REDD outcomes (Bonn, Germany, June 2009) and to lobby against an emissions accounting loophole (October 2009). It also attended the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to address how farm

animals affect climate change and insert important safeguards into REDD text (Copenhagen, December 2009);

(c) Attended the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010 and worked on how farm animals affect and are affected by climate change. It held an exhibit booth and lobbied for mitigation options for agricultural emissions to account for effects on farm animal welfare;

(d) Attended the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties, held in Durban, South Africa, in November/December 2011 and had an exhibit booth and side event to raise awareness of climate change impacts of and on farm animals.

In respect of the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, the organization attended the fourth Conference of the Parties (San Jose, Costa Rica, 23-24 April 2009) to support the adoption of a resolution on sea turtle habitats and climate change.

In respect of the Animal Production and Health Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the organization attended an open forum on capacity-building to implement good animal welfare practices, delivered a presentation and submitted a written report to the expert meeting (Rome, 29 September 2008).

In respect of the Convention on Migratory Species, the organization:

(a) Participated in the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, held in Rome in December 2008, and lobbied successfully for the inclusion of four species of shark in the Convention's appendices. It also participated in the meeting on the Memorandum of Understanding on the conservation of migratory sharks and lobbied unsuccessfully for the agreement to be legally binding;

(b) Lobbied successfully in Manila in February 2010 for the introduction of the Memorandum of Understanding on the conservation of migratory sharks;

In respect of the FAO Committee on Fisheries, the organization attended the session of the Committee (Rome, March 2009), during which it encouraged Latin American countries to support the proposed intervention of Costa Rica on shark finning, and assisted the Government of Costa Rica in January/February 2011 with a side event on shark finning to present the results from a technical workshop.

#### **4. Ibero American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation**

**Special, 1976**

##### **Introduction**

The Ibero American Institute of Aeronautic and Space Law and Commercial Aviation is working to continue its close cooperation with the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The aims of the Institute are to promote knowledge, raise awareness and establish international cooperation with regard to aeronautical and space law and commercial aviation. Its main activities are to organize congresses, conduct courses and seminars, publish books, sign cooperation

agreements with public institutions and participate in congresses and conferences that promote the unification of criteria in the air transport and space policies of the Latin American countries, which are relayed to the United Nations, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

#### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no changes.

#### **Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

The Institute's purposes are in conformity with those of the United Nations and are concerned with matters within the competence of the United Nations, ICAO and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, namely research and dissemination of international law, in particular air and space law.

#### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The Institute is a non-profit organization with very limited financing resources obtained from the annual membership fees and from the annual subsidy of Aena Foundation, an airport and air traffic control company in Spain, as a result of a cooperative agreement applicable only to academic activities and publications but not to social events. For this reason, the Institute is not able to finance the attendance of its representatives at meetings of United Nations bodies, although they are very interested in attending.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The Institute has organized 39 congresses on air and space law. The proceedings of 30 congresses were published by the Institute, as were 26 publications produced by legal experts. Every year the Institute organizes one congress, during which air and space law items are included. It is important to note the cooperation between the Institute and ICAO: after the Institute's meetings, conclusions are adopted and, once approved by the plenary assembly, relayed to ICAO, the Latin American Civil Aviation Commission and embassies and airlines of the Latin American countries.

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

The Institute, as part of its investigation and dissemination efforts in aviation and space law, carries out seminars and produces publications that contribute to the promotion of sustainable development, environmental sustainability and a global partnership for development.

## **5. Indian Social Institute**

### **Special, 2004**

#### **Introduction**

The Indian Social Institute, New Delhi, was established in 1951 in response to the challenges of nation-building and a new emerging social order in independent India.

It has evolved its vision, mission, goals and objectives to respond to the changing situation in the country as a learning organization over the past 50 years.

### **Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

Contributions included the following:

- In September 2008, the organization launched a programme, supported by Misereor, Germany, entitled “Understanding and addressing social conflict: peace and justice initiatives” in eight northern states of India.
- From 27 January to 1 February 2009, representatives participated in the World Social Forum on the theme “Indigenous peoples and development”, held in Belem, Brazil.
- From 9 to 19 April 2011, the organization directed the Peacebuilding in Asia programme organized by Caritas Asia in Bangkok and Negombo, Sri Lanka.
- From 2008 to 2011, the organization participated in research and workshops on human rights, women’s empowerment, food and livelihood, indigenous peoples and media, equitable development and natural resources in five states of India.
- From 2008 to 2011, the organization supported legal education in universities and institutions for the empowerment of marginalized people.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

In 2010, representatives attended the ninth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, (New York, 19-30 April) during which a statement on indigenous rights was made. During the Asia Caucus meeting with the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights, the representatives apprised him of the grim tribal situation in India and submitted a report.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

- Networking with the Baha’i Office for the Advancement of Women at the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women on financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, New Delhi, April 2008.
- Networking with Women’s World Health Initiative, New Delhi, October 2008.
- Project in collaboration with the People’s Alliance Network on an alternate report to the periodic report of the Government of India to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, New Delhi, 2008-2009.
- Project in collaboration with Action for Food Production for UNDP entitled “Vulnerability reduction through community empowerment and control of water” in Marwar, India, 2010.
- National consultation on development, human rights and the State to celebrate Human Rights Day, organized with support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Ministry of Human Resource Development of India, 10 December 2009.



- Workshop on the theme “Beyond violence: the Maoist movement”, organized with support from UNESCO and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, 13 February 2010.
- Attended a conference on the role of philanthropy in peacebuilding efforts to tackle structural injustice in South Asia at UNDP, New Delhi, 26 February 2010.

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

Representatives participated in a national consultation on the theme “Millennium Development Goals and the socially excluded: a critical appraisal”, organized by the Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, New Delhi, and the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights in New Delhi on 22 August 2008. Regarding Goal 2, an evaluation study was conducted on the educational schemes of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs of India in the states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa in 2008. Regarding Goal 3, promoting gender equality, a study entitled “Life enrichment education programme: an initiative for the empowerment of women and Girls” was undertaken from 2008 to 2009.

## **6. Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy**

### **Special, 2000**

#### **Introduction**

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy is headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States of America. The Institute works to establish the trade, climate, finance and agriculture rules needed for local communities, especially women, to claim their rights to food and water. It advocates in global coalition with civil society organizations, reports on meetings at United Nations forums and helps to facilitate dialogue between civil society organizations and Government delegates.

#### **Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

The organization consistently tracks World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations related to agriculture, and since 2009 applies this expertise to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Committee on World Food Security. It writes and convenes extensively on agriculture, trade, climate and finance matters, providing analysis of issues to civil society organizations, officials, delegates and negotiators. Its contributions include the following:

(a) Organizing, together with civil society organization partners, a conference on the theme “Global food challenge: finding approaches to trade and investment that support the right to food” in Geneva in November 2008. Speakers included the WTO Director General, Pascal Lamy; Peter F. Allgeier, the representative of the United States to WTO; the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier de Schutter; and the Coordinator of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, David Nabarro;

(b) Submitting comments in 2009 to the Commission of Experts on Reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System, advocating for reform of the commodity futures markets;

(c) Contributing papers in May 2009 and May 2010 to public symposiums of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) regarding the financialization of the commodity markets;

(d) Drafting, together with water activists in 2009 a “call on water and climate” for the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Copenhagen;

(e) Convening in February and April 2010, together with the Quaker United Nations Office, gatherings of Government agriculture negotiators in Geneva to discuss agricultural trade rules;

(f) Convening a meeting in Brussels in June 2010 on food reserves, which included participants from the Committee on World Food Security, UNCTAD, the Governments of Belgium, France and Germany and the European Union Development Commission.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

During the period under review, the organization participated in meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development, UNCTAD, WTO, including the WTO Public Forum, FAO, including the World Summit on Food Security and those of the FAO Committee on Commodity Problems, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Conference’s subsidiary bodies and Ad Hoc Working Groups.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

In July 2008, the organization, in cooperation with civil society organizations and WTO negotiators, convened meetings in Geneva between trade negotiators and trade union and farmer leaders from developing countries.

In June 2009, it co-organized a side event with the Center of Concern and the Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations during a high-level meeting on development and international financial reform in New York. The organization helped to finalize the statement submitted to the high-level meeting and chaired a meeting to receive the final input from forum members. The organization also participated in the civil society organization strategy sessions with Pablo Solón, permanent representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations at the time.

In May 2010, the organization was invited to participate in a meeting organized by the Special Representative of the Secretary-general for Food Security and Nutrition in Dublin to review the common framework for action on the food crisis. It also co-chaired the working group on trade with WTO.

## **7. Institute for Multicultural Communications, Cooperation and Development**

**Special, 2004**

### **Introduction**

The Institute for Multicultural Communications, Cooperation and Development is focused on strengthening the relationships between the United States and Latin America. It promotes cooperation, trade, integration and development among and between economic, social, cultural and political entrepreneurs, activists and scholars in the Caribbean, Central America, South America, North America and the expanding transnational communities in those regions. Since 2004 it has adopted a more open and collaborative organizational structure and strategy, through which it strengthened its relationships with existing partners and established new key alliances.

### **Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

A more diversified and expanded work programme more closely aligned with that of the United Nations was developed. Combining academic research and what the organization learns through forums and community conversations with on-the-ground pilot projects enables it to better operate at all levels of society. Sharing research results with the public and using them to improve operations and better communicate its plans to its network have made their work of promoting unity among the diverse groups that reside in the Bronx (United States) more effective. Collaborating with the diaspora who live in the Bronx enables the Institute to work within the transnational communities that connect the people of the Bronx to those beyond the county's borders. It has established a civil society-rooted work programme at the local, regional and global levels that promotes development, cultural understanding and unity among and between diverse and divided cultural communities and supports the work of the United Nations.

Two of the organization's core network principles are diversity, development and democracy (3Ds) and strengthening communities/revitalizing cities. Its main work is to organize forums, conferences and conversations with communities while explaining the Institute's work programme and that of the United Nations. During the reporting period, it organized forums at educational institutions on such themes as popular power in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Brooklyn College, May 2009); governance and democratic development in Ghana (Seton Hall University, November 2009); and diversity, development and democracy in Turkey (April 2011).

The forums were instrumental in strengthening the organization's relationships with existing partners and in helping it to develop new alliances, while informing communities about its collaboration with the United Nations. For example, it established a good relationship with the Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations, the Venezuelan Consulate in New York and members of the Venezuela diaspora in the New York metropolitan area. Currently, it is exploring a joint television education programme on ecology, which will compare the progress being made in urban agriculture and communities in the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela with that of the Bronx. The organization participates in a collaboration of four organizations committed to helping development and democracy thrive in

Africa with the help of a strengthened African diaspora. Recently, the organization met with the new Under-Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Africa, and agreed to begin to work together on a project for Africa. A partnership was developed with the Brazilian Endowment for the Arts and artists in the diaspora to mount an exhibition using recycled materials in the Bronx. A partnership on the Middle East and North Africa was also established with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.

#### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The President of the organization and volunteer assistants attended many meetings at the United Nations related to issues of concern to the Institute and the communities that it serves. Those meetings deepened its understanding of the issues and linked them to other related issues. Among them was the forty-ninth session of the Commission for Social Development, held from 9 to 18 February 2011.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The President of the organization met with a representative of the Office of the Secretary-General and with the Senior Adviser to the Office of Strategic Partnerships of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations regarding collaboration in the Middle East and North African region fellowship programme.

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

The Institute joined the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee for Social Development in the planning for the inclusion of language in support of the Millennium Development Goals. The Committee prepared and presented a statement in support of a social protection floor at the civil society forum.

## **8. Institute for the Development of Education, Arts and Leisure**

### **Special, 2004**

#### **Introduction**

The Institute for the Development of Education, Arts and Leisure seeks to promote a new educational system based on the principle of “education through experience” in keeping with spiritual, ecological, economic and human values in Jaffray, British Columbia, Canada.

#### **Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

Contributions included organizing the following:

- IDEAL Summer School of Music, a one-week music training workshop, in July 2011. Summer music and arts camps (two weeks) have been important programmes in Jaffray since 2004.
- Yearly arts education seminars held in Victor, United States, since 2008. Since 2011, the organization’s team of community educators has gone to schools and regional festivals presenting interactive workshops.
- Environmental presentations (“Honey Day”) to teach children the importance of both honey and native bees in the ecosystem.

- IDEAL tours, field trips at the Institute's farm, where participants can gain hands-on experience.
- IDEAL wellness programmes to introduce children to the holistic notion of wellness.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

In 2008, representatives were present in Paris at the 61st annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, held at UNESCO Headquarters. The Outreach Subcommittee of the Conference, in cooperation with the Institute, presented the "Raconteurs' corner", a place where Conference participants came to tell their stories of empowerment, human rights activism and survival.

In 2009, the Institute organized, in collaboration with the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Children's Rights, an after-school workshop on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with speakers including from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), at the Church Center for the United Nations, in New York on 14 October; Also in 2009, the Institute organized the twentieth anniversary celebration of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the theme "We can speak: New York kids speak up on child rights" (United Nations Headquarters, 9 December), in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations, the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development and the cooperation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Children's Rights.

In 2011, the organization's representative to the United Nations participated in the event entitled "Sing a song full of hope: rights of children of African descent", which involved youth and arts participants for the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Children's Rights, held at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City on 17 November.

During the reporting period, the organization was also actively involved with NGO committees and NGOs, such as the Committee on Children's Rights; a working group on early childhood development and the environment; the Committee on Human Rights; the Subcommittee on Racism; the Committee on Spirituality; and the International Movement ATD Fourth World's poverty programme.

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

The organization made the following contributions to Goals 4 and 5, on maternal and child health:

- (a) Organized "The world day for the pregnant woman", held in Nelson, British Columbia, Canada, 19 April 2008. The day is in the process of being recognized by the United Nations;

(b) Conducted a lecture series on prenatal education by the founder and President of the organization, Natacha Kolesar, on perinatal and yoga in Scottsdale, Sedona and Tucson, United States, from 12 to 14 September. Representatives lectured on prenatal education, on the topic of the importance of intrauterine life, at the “Science meets our hearts” conference, organized by the Association of Prenatal and Perinatal Psychology and Health in Nelson, from 25 to 27 September;

(c) Initiated a peace academy in Bangladesh in 2009, in partnership with a local NGO, Jaagoron. It also developed a manual which was used to train the trainers in a village outside Dhaka, 4-10 February;

(d) Organized a series of nine lectures by its President on prenatal education on prenatal and perinatal health and the arts on 28 November 2010;

(e) Delivered a message by the President of the organization on the issue of pregnant women, mothers and young children in Haiti on 5 February;

(f) Organized a prenatal presentation by the director of the organization’s wellness centre at an international symposium of osteopathy in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation, from 10 to 12 June and a series of lectures offered by the organization’s wellness specialists to promote perinatal education in Cranbrook, Canada, on 27 October.

## **9. Institute of International Social Development**

### **Special, 2000**

#### **Introduction**

The aim and purpose of the Institute of International Social Development is to build a better world through the awareness and implementation of the guiding principles of the United Nations. Its slogan is “One Earth, one family”, and its projects, programmes and everything that it does are geared towards the fulfilment of that ideal.

#### **Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

The following projects in support of the work of the United Nations were completed during the period under review:

- Goals 1 and 3: a self-help group project in Nanoor block of Birbhum district, West Bengal, India, where the organization trained women on traditional stitch embroidery (*kantha*).
- Goal 2: an ongoing functional literacy project (*sushiksha*) conducted in urban, rural and tribal areas of West Bengal and Jharkhand states of India.
- Goals 4 and 5: ( ): an ongoing holistic health-care project (*suswasthya*) to improve the health of rural and tribal people in India, especially women and children.
- Goal 1: an ongoing project aimed at training and empowering young people to earn through hard work and come out of poverty (*shramdaan*).

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The Institute submitted a written statement at the informal interactive hearings with civil society on the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in April 2011, entitled “Poverty eradication, taking into account its interrelationship with social integration and full employment and decent work for all”.

Under the 2010-2011 theme of the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding, an event was organized by the International Ontopsychology Association in collaboration with the Bar Association for International Governmental Organizations, the Association Internationale des Formateurs en OMD and the International Association for Humanitarian Medicine Brock Chisholm, with a special contribution from the organization and the International Association of the Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (Geneva, 20 June 2011). The Secretary-General and a member of the Institute participated and made presentations.

The high-level segment included sessions on the annual ministerial review, the Development Cooperation Forum and many others. The theme for the annual ministerial review was “Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women”, while the focus of the Development Cooperation Forum was development cooperation in times of crisis and new commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The Institute presented both oral and written statements at the two sessions on both topics. The high-level segment was held in New York from 28 June to 2 July. The Institute’s project was selected as a model for best practices in respect of NGO projects worldwide by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs; information about it is available on the best practices website.

The organization participated at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in September 2010, and submitted a written statement on the theme “Development cooperation in times of crises: new commitments to reach the MDGs”.

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

All of the organization’s projects and programmes cover one or more of the Millennium Development Goals. Since 2000, it has geared all of its programmes and projects in line with the achievement of the Goals or increasing awareness about them.

## **10. Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology**

### **Special, 2008**

#### **Introduction**

The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology, established in London in 1889, is the leading international membership body and learned society for marine professionals, with over 15,000 members worldwide. The organization has a strong international presence, with an extensive marine network of 50 international branches, affiliations with major marine societies around the world,

representation on the key marine technical committees and non-governmental status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

### **Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

The organization participated in the work of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission; the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; IMO; the International Seabed Authority; the ad hoc open-ended informal working group to study the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction; and the London Convention and its Protocol through meetings, workshops, technical/working/correspondence groups and international consultations; maintenance of dedicated IMO and Law of the Sea sections on the organization's website; publicizing United Nations work on its website through the organization's journals, magazines and books, related learned professional society events and exhibitions organized and/or co-sponsored by the organization.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

During the reporting period, the organization attended the following meetings: sessions of the Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission; the 2009 General Assembly of the Commission, held in Paris; meetings of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Maritime Safety Committee and the Subcommittees on Bulk Liquids and Gases, Ship Design and Equipment, Fire Protection, Flag State Implementation, Standards of Training and Watchkeeping; and meetings of the Oil Pollution and Hazardous/Noxious Chemical Spills Response Technical Group. It also attended a diplomatic conference on the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, held in Manila in 2010; a workshop on the environmental aspects of the polar code, held in Cambridge, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in 2011; a global task force meeting of the Global Environment Facility-UNDP-IMO GloBallast partnerships project (London, October 2010); the Ballast Water Management Convention Shipbuilders' Forum, which it co-organized and co-hosted (Singapore, November 2010, and Istanbul, Turkey, 2011); and meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the London Convention and its Protocol and of the Ocean Fertilization Working Group (Montreal, Canada, 2011). It made presentations on the following topics: marginal abatement costs/cost-effectiveness of energy-efficiency measures and update; compliance logistics: assessment and enforcement of the Ballast Water Management Convention; black carbon; and engine room resource management.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization hosted the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Global Ocean Observing System Scientific Steering Committee/Panel for Integrated Coastal Observation in London in March 2010; supported a similar meeting in Perth, Australia, in 2009; co-sponsored a Global Ocean Observing System exhibition by Oceanology International in London in 2010; supported a Global Ocean Observing System Scientific Steering Committee workshop on collaborative global operational oceanography initiatives between the United States and the European Union; assisted the World Meteorological Organization-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Joint Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology; co-sponsored an annual joint student award with the



Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Perth Office through the organization's Western Australia branch; supported the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission; and provided input to the marine content of the fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

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

The organization's activities support Goals 3, 7 and 8 of the Millennium Development Goals.

## **11. Institute of Social Studies Trust**

**Special, 1996**

### **Introduction**

The Institute of Social Studies Trust is a non-profit, non-governmental organization headquartered in New Delhi.

### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The organization's overall objective is action-oriented research with a view to bringing about social change with a focus on the livelihood, work and well-being of vulnerable communities from a gender perspective. The organization attempts to bridge the gaps between research, action and policy with the objective of promoting social justice and equity for the underprivileged. It adopts a multi-disciplinary approach in its research. The scope of research ranges from the analysis of macrolevel policies and data to microlevel action research in India and beyond. The Institute organizes seminars and workshops with a view to involving experts in discussions of issues of contemporary concern and the sharing and dissemination of research findings among scholars and policymakers. The documentation centre at the organization's head office aims to provide information and documentation support to researchers and scholars and includes published and unpublished documents both in print and digital versions. Its community centre, located within a poorer community of East Delhi, envisages empowering women, children and adolescent youth from disadvantaged households through community mobilization, legal action, educational inputs and other public services.

### **Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

Between 2008 and 2011, the organization contributed to the work of the United Nations through its research and outreach programmes. In 2008, the organization contributed to the initiative of UNDP India in producing a document on the situation of women and prevailing challenges in a few Indian states as part of a larger advocacy report on ensuring inclusiveness through appropriate policies and programmes. The organization's study on "Revisiting education for all" seeks to capture the changes in the delivery of elementary education among disadvantaged children in India over the past 10 years. In 2008, the Institute organized several policy workshops with home-based, domestic and fish workers aimed at increasing awareness of living and working conditions and needs. In 2009, it conducted a quick assessment study on the impact of the financial and economic slowdown on the

handicrafts industry. In the same year, it conducted a study on the Equal Remuneration Act (1976) of India. In addition, the organization provided technical inputs to the International Labour Organization (ILO) towards holding a national consultation on current employment strategies and women's work in India. A three-day workshop was held jointly with UNICEF on child care and child welfare. The Institute completed studies on the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act from the perspectives of social protection; reviewed an ILO project on green jobs to assess progress in facilitating the development of green jobs into practice and evaluated the human development programme of UNDP in India.

#### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

- 2009: representatives attended a lecture by the Secretary-General (Geneva, 6 March); and participated in International Women's Day (Geneva, 8 March).
- 2010: representative attended a meeting on the theme "Beijing+15: the representation of women" (New York, 3 March).

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

- Research projects in collaboration with UNDP on inclusive development and a human development programme in India.
- Policy workshops with women informal workers on living and working conditions supported by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).
- Policy workshops and technical support to ILO on several projects.
- Consultations in partnership with UNICEF on child care and welfare.

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

The organization's research and other activities are directly or indirectly linked to the Millennium Development Goals. However, the activities of the community centre of the organization are primarily aimed at eradicating poverty and hunger.

## **12. International Association against Painful Experiments on Animals**

### **Special, 1972**

#### **Introduction**

The International Association against Painful Experiments on Animals campaigns globally for humane education and humane research. It was established in 1969 to coordinate the peaceful activities of groups throughout the world opposed to the use of animals for painful experimental purposes and to encourage the development of procedures and techniques that not only replace the use of animals but also provide safer and more reliable results for human beings.

#### **Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

The organization has been actively supporting and publicizing the innovative programmes of UNESCO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to save the great apes. The Association has helped to ban the use of great apes in

biomedical research in Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden and the United Kingdom. With an estimated 150 species becoming extinct every 24 hours, the Association is collaborating with the United Nations to raise awareness around the world about biodiversity and the importance of protecting endangered species and their habitats, supporting the Millennium Development Goals.

#### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization has attended a number of the weekly Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations briefings held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization has continued to work within UNESCO to encourage the establishment by that body of an independent commission of enquiry into the validity of animal tests and the potential of alternative techniques.

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

The organization supports the Millennium Goals through education, and its representatives have given countless talks in schools, colleges and universities throughout the world. It also runs an international information centre and five websites in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, Czech, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Malay, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu and Vietnamese. In 2010, its multilingual websites attracted visitors from 189 different countries.

### **13. International Automobile Federation**

#### **Special, 1972**

##### **Introduction**

Founded in 1904, the International Automobile Federation is a worldwide federation comprising 228 automobile and touring clubs and associations from over 130 countries across five continents. With its headquarters in Paris, the Federation represents the interests of millions of road users, consumers and tourists around the world; it is also the governing body for world motor sport. As an organization of such wide scope and importance, its opinions carry weight and it enjoys considerable prestige and recognition at the international level.

##### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

Acting on behalf of its affiliated members, the Federation works to promote freedom of mobility for all through affordable, safe, and clean motoring; defend the rights of consumers when travelling by automobile; support the harmonization of rules with respect to automobile manufacture and use; protect road users from abusive taxation and disproportionately restrictive legislation; and promote sustainable tourism, aiming to foster tourism that does not damage the environment and is sensitive to national, regional and local cultures. The Federation is involved in a wide range of programmes, field research and public awareness campaigns.

**Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

The Federation has enjoyed special consultative status with the United Nations since 1972. It has continued to participate in the activities of the United Nations and its specialized institutions over the past four years, attending meetings and submitting written and oral reports.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The Federation takes an active part in numerous meetings of various United Nations working groups, notably within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe in Geneva. It attends the plenary session of the Inland Transport Committee each year, when the short- and long-term guidelines and work programmes are established for the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. The Federation regularly participates in the Working Party on Road Traffic Safety. It participates in the World Forum for Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, as well as its subsidiary Working Group on Passive Safety and its Group of Experts on Pollution and Energy. It also closely follows the informal working group on the Worldwide Harmonized Light Vehicles Test Procedure. The Federation has been actively involved in recent revisions of the United Nations Customs Conventions on the Temporary Importation of Private Road Vehicles (1954) and Commercial Road Vehicles (1956) and the Convention of Road Traffic (1968) and continues to contribute to keeping those conventions up to date. To that end, the Federation was present at meetings of the Working Party on Customs Questions Affecting Transport. With respect to the Vehicles Conventions of 1954 and 1956, the Federation jointly manages with the Alliance Internationale de Tourisme a customs document network that serves to facilitate the movement of private and commercial vehicles across borders.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The Federation works with the World Health Organization (WHO) to help achieve the goals of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety and recently became a member of the United Nations Road Safety Collaboration, chaired by WHO. The Federation is an affiliate member of the World Tourism Organization and closely follows the work of UNEP. It also stays informed of related work carried out by the Economic Commissions in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia. The Federation attaches great importance to the work carried out by the United Nations and its specialized agencies and maintains an active role in that work in areas that fall within its fields of competence.

**14. International Buddhist Relief Organisation****Special, 2000****Introduction**

The International Buddhist Relief Organisation provides practical, financial and direct help to all living beings anywhere in the world. Human beings must respect one another, in all their diversity of beliefs, cultures and languages, and differences within and between societies should neither be feared nor repressed. On a global basis, all of the organization's programmes are staffed and run by members and volunteers, meeting all expenses out of their own pockets.

### **Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

Projects and activities have expanded since the previous reporting period. The organization's Tithandizane health clinic in Zambia was refurbished. The project provides valuable clinical facilities for 62 villages. At the Amitha clinic in Malaysia, volunteer doctors and nurses are managing several projects, offering free medical care to those who cannot afford it as well as assistance, counselling and help in family matters and issues of domestic violence. In the United Kingdom, the organization's volunteers help needy people with programmes, such as counselling, meditation, stress relief and rehabilitation from drug and alcohol abuse and other forms of substance abuse, including smoking. Classes for unemployed people and exercise classes are also offered. Financial assistance and other support have been given by the organization's President and other members towards the following projects: the Sri Lankan Nursery, which caters to 100 children, and provides scholarships for 500 children from primary school to university. The organization also promotes income-generating projects for women. During the past four years, it has helped victims of natural disasters and provided them with food, shelter, medicines and other necessities. The Upekkha Bo Sevena Welfare Centre for local needy people is operational and being funded by the organization's Singapore branch. In addition, it provides computer courses for children, as well as a nursery and courses in automobile mechanics. It has also helped people in India, Myanmar and Thailand.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

While widespread e-mail communication has improved, and although physical participation in meetings by members is encouraged, without any financial support, attendance by the organization's members is sometimes unaffordable. In spite of its difficult financial situation, the organization is undertaking considerable projects promoting the work of the United Nations. It serves the work of the United Nations through advocacy and participation in the United Nations agenda, such as the eradication of poverty and the promotion of education and peace. The organization is accredited by the United Nations in New York, Geneva and Vienna, as well as by UNICEF and UNESCO. Its representatives are selected for their strong commitment to the objectives of the organization as well as those of the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies. However, the flexibility and means to attend conferences or other United Nations meetings by some of its members is very much dependent on their personal financial circumstances.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

Linkages with relevant United Nations agencies and relief organizations include: UNICEF, to whom the organization donated £1,000 to assist with its work in Haiti, and the Red Cross, to whom it donated £1,000 towards Pakistan flood relief and £1,000 for Japanese tsunami relief. Some of the organization's members are members of local NGOs and civil societies and associations and international organizations, such as Soroptimist International and the Red Cross. It values the opportunities to network among these and other organizations.

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

The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, Asia and Europe, in the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger and the achievement of universal education, health and environmental protection.

**Additional information**

The organization works in partnership at the global level with some of the international NGOs. Despite its limited funding, the organization has managed to make a valuable contribution towards achieving its shared objectives.

**15. International Catholic Child Bureau****Special, 1952****Introduction**

Created in 1948, the International Catholic Child Bureau is an international Catholic network of organizations engaged in the promotion and protection of children's rights and of their dignity. A French non-profit association, it is present in 66 countries on four different continents through its member organizations and partners.

**Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

The organization co-organized a side event on the theme "The rights-based approach: key to accelerating the implementation of the internationally agreed goals and commitments in education" during the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council (Geneva, 6 July 2011).

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

Beyond the regular submission of oral and written statements and organization of side events to the regular and special sessions of the Human Rights Council, the paid special attention to the Human Rights Council annual days on the rights of the child, which took place at its tenth, thirteenth and sixteenth sessions. The organization used the opportunity to work jointly with other NGOs in organizing side events and submitting joint declarations on achievements and challenges regarding the full realization of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the fight against sexual violence against children and the protection and promotion of the rights of children working and/or living on the street. The organization also invited representatives of some of its grass-roots member and partner organizations to attend relevant meetings, educated them about the work of the United Nations in areas of child rights and human rights and provided them with a platform for giving accounts of their field activities. The organization adopted the same participatory approach for the meeting of the Committee on the Rights of the Child dedicated to the theme of children of incarcerated parents. In the context of the universal periodic review established by the Human Rights Council, some of the organization's recommendations dealing with the situation of the rights of the child in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nepal and Togo were included in the reports issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization participated in the preparation of and sent representatives to the Third World Congress against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents organized by UNICEF, the Government of Brazil, the Non-Governmental Organizations Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Foundation ECPAT International (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 25-28 November 2008). The organization also submitted documentation about the project it had undertaken in the Republic of Moldova, entitled “My child stayed back”, to the Committee on International Non-Governmental Organizations of the UNESCO Executive Board (Paris, 5-6 May 2011). The association’s international congress on the right to education of children who are estranged from their families and socially excluded was held at UNESCO House and was officially opened by the UNESCO Assistant Director General for Education (Paris, 23-25 May 2011).

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

In order to implement Goal 2, the organization developed the project “Smiling Cambodian children” in Sihanoukville and Battambang regions, Cambodia. A total of 10 non-formal schools were created, with over 1,000 children benefiting from their services every year; 15 teachers were recruited and trained to teach over 600 children in school. In order to implement Goals 4, and 5, the organization developed a project in Mali entitled “Young girls and young mothers in despair”, which supports pregnant girls and ensures a healthy childhood for the infant. Over 250 teenage mothers and girls who are victims of abuse or exploitation are welcomed every year in the organization’s centre, through the project entitled “One roof, one life”. More than 1,500 adults, including police officers and social workers, are also involved in the project.

**Additional information**

To mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the organization launched a worldwide appeal for a new mobilization for childhood, which gathered more than 10,000 signatures from 81 countries, and organized a conference in Geneva in June 2009, at which public authorities, United Nations experts and NGOs presented information about the status of childhood worldwide since the adoption of the Convention. On the same day, a photo exhibition on child dignity and child rights was inaugurated at the United Nations Office at Geneva by the Director General and the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations Office and Specialized Organizations in Geneva.

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