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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. International Catholic Migration Commission

# Special, 1952

# Introduction

Founded in 1951, the International Catholic Migration Commission serves and protects uprooted people, including refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants, regardless of faith, race, ethnicity or nationality.

# Aims and purposes of the organization

The Commission implements and advocates for rights-based policies, durable solutions and capacity-building with respect to refugee resettlement, humanitarian assistance, protection for extremely vulnerable individuals, human trafficking, migrant rights, labour migration, migration and development and the global governance of migration.

# Significant changes in the organization

In 2010 and 2011, the Governments of Mauritius, Mexico and Switzerland appointed the Commission to lead the civil society activities of the annual Global Forum on Migration and Development, a process that grew out of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in 2006.

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

The Commission contributes expertise, resources, capacity, access to its global network of members and collaboration worldwide.

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

The Commission participated in regular meetings of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and thematic processes of the International Labour Organization (ILO), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the World Bank. Its representatives were frequently invited as formal speakers, such as, for instance, the address by its Secretary-General to the principals' meeting of the Global Migration Group (2010). It also collaborates with coalitions of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, InterAction, Refugee Council USA and NGO committees on asylum and migration in Brussels, Geneva and Washington. This has included organizing or collaborating on NGO statements at all UNHCR Executive and Standing Committee meetings; participating in panels on urban refugees and internally displaced persons (UNHCR, 2009 and 2010), on statelessness and migrants in crisis situations (UNITAR, 2009 and 2011), on migrant victims of violence in transit (UNHCR, 2009 and the Human Rights Council, 2010), on migrant domestic workers (OHCHR, 2009 and ILO, 2009 and 2010); providing written inputs to the Committee on Migrant Workers regarding the Philippines (2008) and Mexico (2011) and playing a leading role in two formal days of general discussion held by the Committee in 2009 and 2011. Commission staff were active in meetings with United Nations agencies everywhere that the Commission works, e.g., in Brussels on refugee resettlement and mixed migration; in Washington on protection and durable solutions for women, children and other persons of concern in Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America; in Amman, Beirut and Istanbul on refugee assistance and resettlement; and in Islamabad on health services for internally displaced persons.

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

Examples of cooperation with United Nations bodies during this period include the following:

- In Greece, a formal partnership with UNHCR for the Commission to recruit local experts to enhance the capacity and quality of asylum procedures (2010-2011).
- In Indonesia, psychological, social and medical services for survivors of torture, funded by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and OHCHR (2008-2009); and combating gender-based violence through strengthening community awareness (funding from the United Nations Population Fund, 2009).
- In Jordan, with initial funding from UNHCR, an outreach programme to identify and refer extremely vulnerable Iraqi refugees and people of concern for immediate care, protection and assistance (2007-2008). With UNESCO funding, a school readiness programme for vulnerable Iraqi youth (2009-2010).
- In Kosovo, care and maintenance of minority returnees, internally displaced persons and refugees (UNHCR funding, 2008-2009).
- In Pakistan, with UNICEF funding, protecting children by strengthening community-based care systems (2007-2008). For flood victims, shelters and non-food items (UNHCR funding, 2010-2011) and mobile and fixed health services and hygiene kits (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs/Emergency Response Fund funding, 2010-2011).
- Worldwide, 457 Commission experts were deployed to UNHCR country offices for assessment of refugees for resettlement.

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

Since 2010, the Commission's formal leadership of global civil society in the Global Forum on Migration and Development aims for policies and programmes that link international migration and migrants to positive human and economic development. While its other activities are not explicitly oriented towards the Millennium Development Goals, they contribute to improving the health, education, security and personal and community development of poor and vulnerable individuals.

# 2. International Commission of Catholic Prison Pastoral Care

### Special, 2000

# Introduction

The International Commission of Catholic Prison Pastoral Care is a worldwide association of country delegates for Catholic prison pastoral care.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

The fundamental objectives of the Commission are:

- To awaken and encourage within the worldwide Church and society a greater awareness of and sensitivity to the exercise of prison pastoral care.
- To animate the respective episcopal conferences and the local ordinary to establish and further prison pastoral care, which is the mission of the Church, offering the best support.
- To organize spiritual formation courses, study, current information and meetings for prison pastoral agents and for members of the Commission.
- To promote the humanization, revision and reform of the prison system throughout the world.

To realize these objectives, the Commission works in the following areas:

- Supporting prison pastoral care by assisting prisoners in their human and spiritual development.
- Representing and defending the interests of the prison community if necessary.
- Collaborating in the organization of activities on behalf of prison chaplains.
- Providing participating members with an international forum in which to share their experiences and concerns regarding the pastoral ministry within penal institutions.
- Making representations on issues pertaining to the pastoral ministry in prisons to international institutions (United Nations, Council of Europe, African Union, etc.) in collaboration with the existing delegations of the Catholic Church.
- Encouraging all sectors of society, especially Catholic and other religious groups and NGOs, to pursue human rights in the prison community.
- Publishing newsletters, guidelines, documentation, etc.
- Organizing training programmes and national and international meetings.

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

The Commission organized ancillary meetings in Vienna in 2008, 2009 and 2011, mostly organized by UNODC, and in Brazil in 2010. It works together with other NGOs in Vienna and chairs meetings of Vienna-based NGOs.

# Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives of the Commission attended annual UNODC meetings in Vienna from 2008 to 2011. Representatives also attended a meeting of UNODC in Brazil in 2010. Representatives of the Commission made statements at all those UNODC meetings.

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

The Commission organized the second world art contest for prisoners in 2009.

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

The Commission took no special initiatives in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

# 3. International Council on Alcohol and Addictions

#### Special, 1972

#### Introduction

The International Council on Alcohol and Addictions is dedicated to preventing and reducing the harmful use and effects of alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and addictive behaviours on individuals, families, communities and society throughout the world.

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

In furtherance of its goals, the Council, operating through its committees, its membership network and its affiliations, has delivered major conferences through the years covered by this report in Limassol, Cyprus, in 2008, Estoril, Portugal, in 2009 and Cancun, Mexico, in 2010. Much of its work supports the goals of the United Nations development agenda and, in particular, those targets relating to gender equality, good governance and human rights and combating drug abuse.

At all conferences and in the work of the Council's specialist section which focuses on women and gender issues, particular attention is paid to gender-based inequalities in access to information and treatment. The Swedish Women's Organizations Committee on Alcohol and Drug Issues (WOCAD) is a member body with board member status in the Council. As the collaborating body of Swedish women's organizations for issues concerning alcohol, narcotics and addictive drugs which has recently started to work with young people across the European Union, WOCAD continues to provide the lead for the Council's specialist section on gender equality and to ensure that gender issues are addressed in all aspects of its work.

The Council also continues to address consistently issues of good governance and human rights. In its conferences and through the work of its specialist section on alcohol, drugs and the justice system, it has delivered conference plenary sessions, workshops and papers on topics as diverse as cross-border trafficking of drugs and people, delivering effective prison-based treatment and the problems of establishing and delivering global drug policies and strategies. In support of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, each successive conference has included plenary and major sessions on the implementation and effectiveness of national and international addiction policy and has provided thereby the opportunity for the dissemination of best practice. While alcohol and illicit drug use have continued to provide the core focus of the Council's activities, increasing weight has been placed on issues surrounding tobacco use and the rising tide of prescription drug abuse. At each conference, in meetings and in Internet communications, the Council's specialist section on tobacco dependence has ensured that tobacco retains a high profile in all areas of its work. Likewise, prescription drug abuse and the accelerating prevalence of, and problems generated by, psychotropic substances designed to bypass national laws continue to be addressed as they arise.

# Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Over the past decade, the economic climate has severely curtailed the ability of national and regional NGOs to meet travel and accommodation costs for anything other than core business activities. This has impacted significantly on the ability of the Council to be represented at United Nations events since, traditionally, attendance by board members and other representatives appointed by the Council (except staff) has been funded by the agencies which employ them.

The Council was one of the founding members of the Committee on the Family in 1985 and their designated representative has regularly attended meetings arranged by the United Nations programme on the family. The last contribution within the reporting period was an intervention at the 64th annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference held in Bonn, Germany, from 3 to 5 September 2011. The title of the intervention was "Families: micro-educational resources for Rio+20".

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

Although the Millennium Development Goals do not refer specifically to addictive behaviours, the Council supports them and contributes to their pursuit specifically in the area of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger (Goal 1), improving maternal health (Goal 5) and addressing HIV/AIDS (Goal 6).

# 4. International Council on Social Welfare

#### General, 1972

#### Introduction

The International Council on Social Welfare is a global non-governmental network founded in 1928, which serves as an umbrella organization for local, national and international organizations striving to promote social welfare and social development and working towards the reduction of poverty and deprivation in the world. Its core members are national member organizations, known more commonly as "peak national umbrella organizations". The member organizations of the Council work at the forefront of social welfare and social development. The Council only admits to membership one national organization from each country. Other Council members are issue-based organizations, mostly in the global South, working directly with communities experiencing poverty or other forms of severe hardship. These two groups of members are organized in nine regions that closely mirror the economic cooperation regions, such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the South African Development Community, etc. Several major international NGOs with their own global programmes and networks are also members of the Council.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

The objects of the Council are to:

- Promote forms of social and economic development which aim to reduce poverty, hardship and vulnerability, especially among disadvantaged people.
- Strive for recognition and realization of fundamental rights to employment, income, food, shelter, education, health care and security.
- Promote equality of opportunity, freedom of expression, freedom of association, participation in and access to human services and oppose discrimination.
- Promote policies and programmes which strike an appropriate balance between social and economic goals and which respect cultural diversity.
- Strengthen civil society throughout the world to achieve these objects.
- Seek implementation of these objectives by Governments, international organizations and non-governmental agencies in cooperation with its network of member organizations.

#### Significant changes in the organization

There have been no major constitutional changes since the last report. The office was located for six years up to the end of 2010 in Utrecht in the Netherlands. After that date the principal office was relocated to Entebbe, Uganda.

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

During the reporting period, the Council contributed each year to the Commission for Social Development by way of statements, both written and oral, on the priority themes of the Commission. Representatives of the Council have spoken at the Civil Society Forum held on the day before the Commission meeting. The Council has been one of the major NGO supporters of the Social Protection Floor Initiative through attendance at inter-agency meetings and through running workshops on the Initiative globally and in the regions of Africa and the Middle East, South Asia, South-East Asia and Latin America. The Council has cooperated in global and regional events of the UNESCO Management of Social Transformations programme.

# Participation in meetings of the United Nations

- Commission for Social Development, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011.
- Commission on the Status of Women, March 2008.
- UNESCO Management of Social Transformations programme, Paris, October 2009.

- World Health Organization (WHO) seventh Global Conference on Health Promotion in Nairobi, October 2009.
- Inter-agency meetings on the Social Protection Floor Initiative in Turin, Italy, in June 2010 and New York and Geneva in 2011.

# **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

In June 2010, Sha Zukang, then the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, opened the Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development organized by the Council, the International Association of Schools of Social Work and the International Federation of Social Workers. At the same conference, representatives of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and UNICEF co-organized a forum on the Social Protection Floor Initiative and spoke at a plenary session of the conference. The Council is one of three international NGOs that participate in the inter-agency meetings of the Initiative. The Council supported and spoke at the third meeting of ministers in charge of social development from South Asia, organized by UNESCO and the Ministry of Social Services of Sri Lanka and held in Colombo in February 2011.

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

The main global contribution of the Council to the Millennium Development Goals has been through the promotion of the Social Protection Floor Initiative, which has as its target the provision of minimum levels of income and services in all countries. The approach taken by the inter-agency group requires that the initiatives are the responsibility of national Governments. The Council structure of national umbrella organizations lends itself naturally to working with the Initiative at both the global and national levels. The Council has written regularly on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, as can be found on its website.

#### **Additional information**

The Council regularly promotes United Nations publications and activities through its monthly newsletter "Global Cooperation" and its regional newsletters. The Council website has a special section on the United Nations.

# 5. International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

#### Special, 1972

#### Introduction

The International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations, known as Apimondia, is working with other organizations within the apiculture sector.

#### Significant changes in the organization

With the amendments to its statutes adopted in 2011, five new regional commissions (one for each continent) were established in order to streamline the activities and increase the reach of the Federation in a larger number of countries. The membership increased from 75 members representing 59 countries in 2007, to 111 members

representing 74 countries in 2011. Apimondia has developed and adopted a more structured and specific strategy to address and identify solutions to the concerns and problems affecting beekeepers worldwide. This strategy is based on collaboration and dissemination of information, as well as the increasing visibility and awareness of bees, which has placed them more prominently on the technical agendas of international organizations.

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

The activities of the Federation linked to the work of the United Nations were carried out mainly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Apimondia was unable to participate in the major conferences of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiaries during the reporting period, due to the very limited budget and staff availability.

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

Since 2010, the Federation has collaborated with FAO in creating and running an ad hoc exchange group on beekeeping within the FAO/TECA (Technologies and practices for small agricultural producers) portal, which aims to collect and put at the disposal of the international apicultural community an array of documents and reference material to improve its work and performance. Another initiative that started in 2011 is the organization of an Apimondia international symposium under the name of ApiEcoFlora, due to take place in October 2012 in San Marino, where FAO is responsible for conducting part of the scientific programme on pollination. FAO officers participated in the 2009 and 2011 Apimondia congresses to deliver papers on the activities of FAO, mainly in pollination services and beekeeping-related technologies for rural communities. The Federation has also continued to monitor activities under the *Codex Alimentarius* international food standards, guidelines and codes of practice, mainly as they relate to pyrrolizidine alkaloids residues.

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

The organizing committee of the forty-third Apimondia Congress, due to take place in Ukraine in 2013, having resolved to adopt Agenda 21 as a guideline for the scientific sessions of the event, is already working to develop official proposals of cooperation from the international beekeeping community.

#### **Additional information**

Since the Apimondia Congress in 2009, the member associations have approved the creation of working groups and the preparation of digital kits.

# 6. International Federation of Multimedia Associations

# Special, 2004

# Introduction

The International Federation of Multimedia Associations was founded in 1998 in Canada as an NGO, with headquarters in Montreal. It is based on a worldwide network of multimedia associations, academic institutions, research laboratories, cultural institutions and humanitarian institutions on all five continents. The multimedia associations are usually clusters of small and medium-sized corporations aiming to develop digital technologies, services and content.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

The Federation aims to network worldwide among all significant partners in the field of digital technologies, services and content. Its main purposes are to contribute to awareness of the emerging digital age and the new possibilities for sustainable development in creative industries, South-South development, humanitarian actions, education and training. It gives priority to the values of progress, cultural diversity and reducing the digital divide.

# Significant changes in the organization

As the Federation does not receive any financial support from the Government of Canada, it has had to develop partnerships with other Governments to finance its activities and works mainly with volunteers. Since 2004 it has regularly contracted with regional or municipal governments, mainly in China, to organize its annual World Internet and Multimedia Summit. Its website is now accessible in English, French and Spanish. Since 2009, it has been supported by the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie and has developed links with the Commonwealth Secretariat.

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

The Federation has developed strong links with several United Nations agencies, which have agreed to participate in its World Summit as special guests and speakers. It was a special partner in the United Nations pavilion at the World Expo 2011 Shanghai, on the occasion of the South-South United Nations week organized by the head of the Division for Knowledge Management and Operations of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Special Unit for South-South Cooperation. The Federation has also contributed to the promotion of the creative industries report prepared under the Creative Economy Programme of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The Federation has developed a strong cooperation with a number of United Nations agencies and intends to continue with this work, promoting international cooperation.

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

The Federation does not have the financial and human resources for taking specific initiatives in this field.

# 7. International Federation of Resistance Movements

# Special, 1972

# Introduction

The International Federation of Resistance Movements is an umbrella organization of former resistance fighters, partisans, veterans and members of the anti-Hitler coalition, those pursued by the Nazi regime and anti-fascists of today's generation with more than 60 member federations in 25 countries in Europe and in Israel.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

The Federation stands for peace, democratic and social rights and human dignity in all parts of the world; for the fulfilment of the principles and aims of the Charter of the United Nations; and for the realization of the principles of international law in international relations. This means a fair world economy and respect for the rights of nations over their own resources; for a world where the social and political roots of inhuman terrorism are eliminated and where public terrorism is banned; and being against every form of racist, political, ideological or religious discrimination, anti-Semitism and a regrouping of fascism and Nazism in all their forms.

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

The Federation is fulfilling its obligation as a United Nations peace messenger, as it was designated by the Secretary-General in September 1987, with initiatives for peaceful cooperation between veterans of the former Yugoslavia, in Cyprus and in the Middle East. It celebrated the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 2010.

# Participation in meetings of the United Nations

For financial reasons, it has been impossible for the Federation to participate in international meetings outside Europe in recent years.

# **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The Federation invited representatives of the United Nations Regional Information Centre in Brussels to its regular congresses in Athens in 2007 and Berlin in 2010. For the celebration of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it received and distributed greetings from the Centre.

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

The Federation has supported several decisions of the General Assembly, such as the decision against historical falsification and the resurgence of former Schutzstaffel (SS) traditions. As an organization based on volunteer work, it supports the United Nations goals for social integration and overcoming racism.

#### Additional information

The main field of the historical and political activities of the Federation is the preservation of historical commemorations. In April 2008, together with the Belgian

National Institute for Veterans and Victims of War, the Federation organized an international youth meeting in Buchenwald with 1,000 young people. On 8 May 2012, it organized a similar meeting in Auschwitz. Participants came from France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal and Russian Federation.

# 8. International Humanist and Ethical Union

# Special, 2000

# Introduction

The International Humanist and Ethical Union is the world union of more than 100 humanist, rationalist, secular, ethical culture, atheist and free-thought organizations in 39 countries. The mission of the Union is to represent and support the worldwide humanist movement. Its aim is a humanist world in which human rights are respected and everyone can live a life of dignity.

# Significant changes in the organization

The reporting period saw membership in the Union increase to 124 member organizations in 39 countries.

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

The Union contributed to the work of the United Nations by promoting United Nations activities and achievements, contributing to United Nations policy debates, working with United Nations officials, and by running campaigns that support the goals of the United Nations. For example:

- A representative of the Union writes a monthly article promoting the work of the United Nations, which is published on the Union website and widely reproduced.
- In 2009, the Union published a 15-page policy paper entitled "Speaking freely about religion: religious freedom, defamation and blasphemy" which examined the debate at the United Nations on religious defamation and freedom of expression.
- On 13 August 2011, in Oslo, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief spoke at the triennial World Humanist Congress and took part in a daylong workshop on the role of supranational bodies in building peace.
- From 2008 onwards, the Union was active in combating widespread human rights abuses caused by belief in sorcery and the consequent persecution of alleged witches. Direct action by representatives of the Union has saved the lives of people accused of witchcraft in South Asia and Africa, while its educational campaigns in these regions have helped reduce the fear of sorcery that fuels witch hunts.
- The Union expanded its campaign against untouchability the social exclusion of people because of the population group they are born into. Untouchability is found in many different cultures and traditions and afflicts nearly 250 million people in dozens of countries. Activities included organizing the first world conference on untouchability in London in June 2009 and organizing leadership

training campaigns in untouchable communities in South Asia and West Africa. The Union brings the full support of the international humanist community to the work of the United Nations in fighting racism and discrimination based on descent or profession.

### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives of the Union are active participants in United Nations forums. Activities from 2008 to 2011 included:

- Participation in all sessions, except June 2011, of the Human Rights Council during the period under review, including written and oral submissions at every session attended.
- Participation in all sessions open to NGOs at UNESCO in Paris.
- A seminar on 17 September 2008, co-hosted by the Union at the United Nations Office at Geneva, on the theme of "Freedom of expression in the Human Rights Council".
- A seminar on 21 April 2009, co-hosted by the Union at the United Nations Office at Geneva, on the theme of "Racism the road to genocide", in parallel with the Durban Review Conference.
- Representatives of the Union participated in many NGO committees at the United Nations in New York and Geneva, including the Committee on Freedom of Religion or Belief, the Committee on Children's Rights and the NGO Committee on Human Rights.

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

The Union supports the Millennium Development Goals and has publicized them through articles in its publications. Several of its western member organizations support projects in the developing world and most member organizations in developing countries are directly involved in work that supports the Millennium Development Goals. Projects include:

- Goal 1, Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: a nutrition programme for slum children in Mumbai, India.
- Goal 2, Achieve universal primary education: three elementary schools opened and maintained in Uganda.
- Goal 3, Promote gender equality and empower women: rehabilitation programmes for former prostitutes in Uganda and India.
- Goals 4, 5 and 6, Reduce child mortality, Improve maternal health, and Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: programmes in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, India, for mother and child health care and education.
- Goal 8, Develop a global partnership for development: through its grants programme, the Union funds member organizations in developing countries.

# 9. International Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development

# Special, 1996

# Introduction

As the first human rights organization with special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council based in Nepal, the Institute has been functioning as a front-runner human rights organization with a non-governmental, non-partisan and non-profit-making independent approach. During the state of emergency and armed conflict in the country, it worked as a saving grace for the victims of human rights violations.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

The Institute undertakes advocacy on a global basis with a special focus on the South Asia region. Its major objectives include advancement of human rights, transitional justice, electoral freedom, democracy and peace through dissemination of United Nations human rights protection mechanisms. Its modus operandi includes research, education, training, civic diplomacy, information handling and litigation.

#### Significant changes in the organization

During the reporting period, it embraced a change in its scope of activity from a conflict-monitoring initiative to advocacy on transitional justice, election monitoring and forced migration, although the primary agenda of the organization has remained the same, i.e., upholding United Nations human rights principles.

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

The Institute continues to uphold United Nations human rights doctrines and the Charter of the United Nations. It embraces the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights and strives for effective realization of international instruments at the regional and domestic levels in various activities related to the Economic and Social Council, its subsidiary bodies and major events sponsored by the United Nations. It has been serving as a first door on which to knock for the United Nations agencies in Nepal seeking information and dialogue.

### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

In 2011, the Institute participated in the following meetings:

- Fourth annual Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (11-13 December, Doha).
- Eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council (12-30 September, Geneva).
- 64th annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference (3-5 September, Bonn).
- Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (9-13 May, Istanbul).
- Rio+20 Asia regional forum (18-22 November, Seoul).

In 2010, the Institute participated in the following meetings:

- High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (United Nations Headquarters, 20-22 September).
- Informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector (United Nations Headquarters, 14-15 June).
- Fourth High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development (United Nations Headquarters, 23-24 March).
- Fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (United Nations Headquarters, 1-12 March).

In 2009, the Institute participated in the following meetings:

- Fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Copenhagen, 7-18 December).
- United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (United Nations Headquarters, 24-26 June).
- Fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women (United Nations Headquarters, 2-13 March).

In 2008, the Institute participated in the following meetings:

- High-level event on the Millennium Development Goals (United Nations Headquarters, 25 September).
- 2008 High-level meeting on AIDS (United Nations Headquarters, 10-11 June).
- Fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women (United Nations Headquarters, 25 February-7 and 13 March).

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

From 2008 to 2011, the Institute took an active part in joint activities with the OHCHR field office in Nepal to monitor violations of human rights and humanitarian law during high-intensity internal armed conflict. It worked in close cooperation with UNHCR towards exploring durable solutions for refugees. It also produced a film entitled "Journey to Justice" with OHCHR, using technical assistance, which was screened around the globe. It participated in various sessions of the Human Rights Council and made oral and written interventions on issues relating to torture and impunity. The Institute was also involved in preparing NGO shadow reports on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. It also conducted training on international humanitarian law, the United Nations human rights system, the United Nations reform agenda and the Millennium Development Goals at national and regional levels.

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

To advance the campaign on the Beijing Platform for Action in support of Goal 3, on gender equality and the empowerment of women, the Institute worked in coordination with the South Asia regional office of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

The Institute prepared a position paper on the Millennium Development Goals and human rights and presented it in various forums.

It also took part in the fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in Istanbul and presented a paper on the Millennium Development Goals and the least developed countries. It served as a secretariat team member for LDC Watch in cooperation with the office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States.

# **Additional information**

- Various United Nations and international days (of children, AIDS, migration, women, indigenous people, etc.) were observed with UNDP and other United Nations agencies.
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights was celebrated annually under the theme "Magna meet". Rallies, public gatherings and symposiums were also organized.
- The organization has been continuously working with OHCHR and the Human Rights Council on issues relating to accountability and impunity through research, publications and campaigns. It is one of the strongest supporters of the United Nations system in Nepal.

# 10. International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism

# Special, 2009

# Introduction

The International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism is an international non-profit, non-governmental human rights organization devoted to eliminating discrimination and racism, forging international solidarity among minorities suffering from discrimination and advancing the international human rights system.

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

The Movement has:

• Delivered the voices of affected communities to the human rights bodies through submission of written statements and presentation of oral statements at the Human Rights Council, organized side events and assisted with treaty body advocacy.

- Facilitated and coordinated effective NGO inputs to United Nations bodies and their participation in relevant United Nations events.
- Promoted the United Nations human rights system and instruments among affected communities, especially on discrimination issues, through workshops and training programmes.
- Raised awareness of the general public and relevant stakeholders on the issue of discrimination, international standards and the United Nations system through various information and training events.
- Created a guidebook entitled "The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination: a guide for civil society actors" (available on the website of the Movement).
- Together with other NGOs, initiated and carried out a webcast of treaty body sessions.

# Participation in meetings of the United Nations

In 2009, representatives of the Movement participated in the following meetings of the United Nations: the Durban Review Conference; the seventy-fifth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the twelfth session of the Human Rights Council; the second session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and the eleventh session of the Committee on Migrant Workers.

In 2010, representatives of the Movement participated in the following meetings: the seventy-sixth and seventy-seventh sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Human Rights Council; the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child; the fifth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; the forty-fifth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the third session of the Forum on Minority Issues; and informal consultations on the review of the Human Rights Council.

In 2011, representatives of the Movement took part in the following meetings: informal consultations and working group meetings on the review of the Human Rights Council; the forty-eighth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the Human Rights Council; the seventy-eighth and seventy-ninth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the third session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the elaboration of complementary standards; the fourth session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the forty-seventh session of the Committee against Torture; and the fourth session of the Forum on Minority Issues.

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

The Movement published its guidebook on the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination in Spanish, in cooperation with the OHCHR regional office for Central America.

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

- The Asia Committee of the Movement, based in Sri Lanka, has carried out projects on awareness-raising and on development of women's leadership in decision-making. Addressing the post-war challenges facing Sri Lanka, interlinked with a review of the Millennium Development Goals, was facilitated through such programmes.
- The Movement contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in Tamil Nadu, India, together with a local organization, Society for Rural Education and Development, with the construction and management of seven Dalit children's day-care centres, which will look after 500 children for three years, and established evening classes for Dalit children, which will cater for 1,050 children over three years. This has helped to reduce school dropout rates. The Movement has also supported Dalit women with human rights training and an income generation programme.
- Together with the Feminist Dalit Organization in Nepal, in April 2011, the Movement launched human rights awareness-raising and educational programmes for Dalit women in Nepal.
- Together with the Women's Consortium of Nigeria, the Movement started an advocacy programme in 2011 in the rural areas of Nigeria, where most women are vulnerable and subject to trafficking, due to their ignorance and poverty.
- The Movement has conducted advocacy work for the rights of the Mapuche indigenous community in the Loma de la Lata and Pulmari conflicts over land in Argentina and has continued provision of legal aid to the community.

# **Additional information**

Detailed activity reports, financial reports and membership reports or lists of officers can be provided upon request.

# **11. International Native Tradition Interchange**

# Special, 2004

# Introduction

International Native Tradition Interchange seeks to create awareness and promote respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and for mother earth. The organization works to accomplish these aims through its relationships with its affiliated organizations, heighten awareness of issues of concern and lobby for adoption of policies that implement the rights of indigenous peoples and protect mother earth.

# Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization strives to enhance indigenous participation, to help marshal the resources necessary to function more effectively and to share experiences for a cultural exchange based on the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and a holistic vision of the world.

The organization aims to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals and the international agenda for the twenty-first century by improving participation to face the challenge of issues such as climate change and the eradication of poverty and hunger; by strengthening relationships with affiliated indigenous organizations in other countries to enhance cooperation and build capacity, exchange information and experiences and bring the voice of traditional indigenous communities to international forums.

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

The organization has been contributing to the implementation of ILO Convention No. 169 (1989) concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Millennium Development Goals and plans a long-term contribution.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the seventh to tenth sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York, from 2008 to 2011.

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

Cooperation with United Nations bodies is undertaken through the work of the organization on the environment, human rights and issues such as women, children and forests.

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

Activities to advance the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals were focused on Goal 1, Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. From 21 to 27 June 2011, the organization held a workshop for traditional women weavers in the territory of the Arhuaco, Wiwa and Kogui indigenous peoples in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in Colombia, aimed at creating microenterprises based on traditional *mochilas* (hand-woven bags) and other hand-made crafts.

#### **Additional information**

The organization is struggling financially, but is working towards developing the financial resources that will allow it to continue its mission to protect mother earth for future generations.

# 12. International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development

#### Special, 2004

#### Introduction

The International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development is an organization based in Indonesia that has been in existence for more than 25 years. It is a civil society forum advocating for development policies and its membership embraces more than 90 agencies based in Jakarta and elsewhere in the country. In the past three years, the Forum has focused increasingly on three core areas of concern: advancement of human rights, including women's rights, pro-poor development and the Millennium Development Goals and aid effectiveness.

The cooperation partners of the Forum in the last three years include the European Union, Development and Peace in Canada, the Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO) in the Netherlands, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, now part of UN-Women), UNDP, *Bappenas* (the Indonesian National Development Planning Agency), the Indonesian Ministry for Economic Affairs and the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Forum is registered with the Indonesian Ministry of Law and Human Rights as an association.

# Aims and purposes of the organization

Vision: advancing democracy, equality and social justice, building peace and upholding human rights at the national and global level.

Mission: (1) Raising public awareness of the values of human rights, democracy, equality, social justice and peace through public education; (2) Conducting policy research and studies; (3) Initiating policy dialogues in order to push for policies that create an enabling environment for the fulfilment of human rights for all, particularly the poor and marginalized, based on the values of democracy, equality, social justice and peace; and (4) Fostering partnerships and networks to build social solidarity at the national and international level.

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

The Forum is actively involved in debates on the issue of financing for development in national, regional and international forums. The following are activities related to financing for development in which the Forum has either participated or which it initiated:

- A representative of the Forum attended the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008.
- In partnership with the Reality of Aid Network, the Forum organized a side event on the theme, "The Reality of Aid 2008 report: aid effectiveness, democratic ownership and human rights" during the Civil Society Forum on Financing for Development held on 27 November 2008 in Doha.
- The Forum has contributed to the international debate on foreign aid examined from the international law perspective through a study on illegitimate debt that it conducted. The results of the study were published by the African Forum and Network on Debt and Development in a 2007 publication entitled "The case of illegitimate debt in Indonesia".

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

The Forum participated in meetings concerning the promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, social and cultural rights, including the right to development. It delivered written statements on freedom of expression and opinion in Indonesia, lack of protection for Indonesian migrant workers, the progress of judiciary independence in Indonesia, terrorism in Indonesia and women's reproductive health rights.

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

Cooperation with UNIFEM (now part of UN-Women) in Indonesia, together with other civil society organizations, focused on conducting gender mapping in Indonesia in preparation for the Third High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Accra in 2008. In collaboration with UNDP in Indonesia, the Forum has pushed for multi-stakeholder dialogues within the Aid for Development Effectiveness Secretariat concerning aid effectiveness between 2009 and 2011.

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

- In 2008, the Forum joined the "Stand Up and Take Action" campaign in cooperation with the Millennium Campaign in the Asia-Pacific region.
- Since 2007, the Forum has served as the secretariat for the civil society network on achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. A range of activities has been carried out with the network, including the delivery of the civil society version of the report on achievement of the Goals in Indonesia for 2007 and 2010 and participation in national and local public campaigns and in global campaigns, such as "Stand Up and Take Action", and Anti-Poverty Day.
- Since 2011, the Forum has pushed for the acceleration of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal targets in four districts in Indonesia (Pangkep in South Sulawesi, Serang in Banten, Jember in East Java and Morowali in Central Sulawesi) by promoting participatory planning and budgeting that involves local people and women in particular. This action was conducted in cooperation with the European Union.

# **13.** International Planned Parenthood Federation (South Asia region)

#### Special, 2000

#### Introduction

The International Planned Parenthood Federation works in 172 countries to empower the most vulnerable women, men and young people to access life-saving services and programmes and to live with dignity. Supported by millions of volunteers and 30,000 staff, the member associations of the Federation in South Asia provide sexual and reproductive health information, education and services through 65,000 service points. Those services include family planning, abortion, maternal and child health and treatment, prevention of and care in cases of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV. Every year, the member associations help millions of poor and vulnerable people to avoid unsafe childbirth, unsafe sex and unsafe abortions, STI-related illnesses and HIV-related stigma and discrimination. Together, the members of the Federation in South Asia fight for local, national and global policies which recognize a fundamental human right — the right to sexual and reproductive health.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

The Federation in South Asia envisages a world in which all women, men and young people have access to the information and services they need; a world in which sexuality is recognized both as a natural and precious aspect of life and as a fundamental human right; a world in which choices are fully respected and where stigma and discrimination have no place.

#### Significant changes in the organization

The South Asia region office relocated from London to New Delhi in early 2004, to be in the region it serves. It expanded its presence in the region in 2006, with the addition of an associate member in Afghanistan and Bhutan.

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

The Federation in South Asia is financially supported by Governments, trusts and foundations, including the European Commission and the United Nations Population Fund for special projects. Half of the balance of its funding comes from official development assistance programmes.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

- At the Economic and Social Council annual ministerial review in 2009, the Federation in South Asia submitted a written statement entitled "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health".
- In 2010, the Federation in South Asia supported a new agenda of investment in women and girls, in their education, especially secondary education, in their health, especially their sexual and reproductive health including their maternal health, and investing in their empowerment and employment, which could be the catalyst for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable social and economic development.
- In 2011, the Federation in South Asia welcomed the focus of the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education.
- In 2008, the Federation in South Asia delivered a statement at the forty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development on behalf of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, Population Action International and the Feminist Majority Foundation.
- In 2010, the International Planned Parenthood Federation made an oral statement at the forty-third session of the Commission on Population and Development held from 12 to 16 April 2010. The Federation recognizes that maternal morbidity impedes individual, community, national and global development.
- In 2011, the Federation, through its 153 member associations in 174 countries, committed to implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

- In 2008, the Federation in South Asia submitted a statement to the Commission on the Status of Women on the global campaign for gender equality architecture reform in the United Nations on behalf of Amnesty International, Asia Pacific Women's Watch and the Association for Women's Rights.
- In 2010, the International Planned Parenthood Federation welcomed the theme of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. As a service provider and advocate for sexual and reproductive health and rights, the Federation is committed to implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals.

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

• To achieve its goals as an organization, the Federation in South Asia often collaborates with WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

# 14. International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

#### Special, 2000

#### Introduction

The International Presentation Association is active in social development, sustainable development, financing for development and gender equality.

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

The Association has served as a member of a number of the NGO committees based at United Nations Headquarters: member of the Committee for Social Development, core group member for poverty eradication and steering group member for the Working Group on Girls. It has organized a signature campaign to support the Social Protection Floor Initiative, conducted two grass-roots consultations on social integration, published two booklets on good practices and recommendations and one with comments from the signatories to the campaign.

The Association has facilitated discussions among communities on the impact of the agreed conclusions of the Commission on Status of Women, the 2010 review of the Millennium Development Goals, the draft guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights, provided input to the Rio+20 compilation document and sponsored two young women from Zambia to attend the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York.

### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives of the Association attended sessions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Written statements were submitted to a number of these bodies. Side events were organized each year of the reporting period around the sessions of both the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development.

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

The Association worked in collaboration with the Division for Social Policy and Development in preparation for sessions of the Commission for Social Development; carried out grass-roots consultations on social integration with technical assistance from the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service in 2009 and 2010; co-sponsored a side event with the Liaison Service on the outcome of those consultations in 2011; organized informal meetings with Member States and United Nations agencies in preparation for the Commission for Social Development in 2012; and networked with the ILO in support of the Social Protection Floor Initiative in 2010 and 2011.

The Association made individual submissions to the universal periodic review on Canada and New Zealand in 2008, Australia in 2010 and a joint submission with other organizations on the United States of America in 2010. The Association made contributions to the joint NGO shadow report on the combined fifth and sixth State party reports of Zambia on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and attended sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in 2010 and 2011 in New York.

The Association submitted grass-roots responses on the draft guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights to OHCHR, attended a consultation on the draft guiding principles on 22 and 23 June 2011 in Geneva and presented a written statement on rights-based social protection to OHCHR.

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

The Association is involved in a number of initiatives: formal and non-formal education, programmes for the empowerment of women, primary health care, care for persons with disabilities, participatory forums for children as agents of social change, care of people living with HIV/AIDS and education for sustainable living in countries where the organization is present. It is also involved in initiatives on best practices on the benefits of solar energy in rural India and harnessing rain water in Zambia, which can be found on the Civil Society Network webpage of the Economic and Social Council.

# 15. International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims

# Special, 1996

# Introduction

The International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims is a health-based umbrella organization that supports the rehabilitation of torture victims and the prevention of torture worldwide. Its members comprise more than 140 independent organizations in over 70 countries and its work is governed by them. The Council secretariat is based in Copenhagen, with liaison offices in Geneva and Brussels.

### Aims and purposes of the organization

The mission of the Council is to ensure that torture victims are able to access appropriate health-based torture rehabilitation services, ensure that torture victims are able to have full access to justice and contribute to the prevention of torture worldwide. It works towards achieving its mission by facilitating capacity development within the Council membership; creating a more enabling policy environment for the membership and for torture victims; and through the generation and sharing of knowledge within its membership and with the wider anti-torture movement.

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

The Council has implemented various programmes aimed at developing capacity within the global membership through South-South and North-South exchanges, peer supervisions and conferences. These activities significantly increase the ability of the members to deliver holistic rehabilitation services to victims of torture and ill-treatment. Those services are crucial in supporting torture victims so that they can continue with their lives and ensure the livelihood of their families. The Council has implemented projects specifically aimed at increasing the global amount of funding available to organizations working on the rehabilitation of victims of torture and ill-treatment.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

- From 2008 to 2011, the representative of the Council in Geneva actively participated in the tenth to eighteenth sessions of the Human Rights Council.
- From 2008 to 2011, the representative of the Council in Geneva participated in the forty-first to forty-seventh sessions of the Committee against Torture.
- In 2009, the Council hosted a side event at the tenth session of the Human Rights Council on the theme of "Shedding light on a dark practice using the Istanbul Protocol to document torture".
- In 2010, the Council hosted a side event at the thirteenth session of the Human Rights Council on the theme of "Exploring sustainable systems to document torture the role of health professionals".
- In 2011, the Council co-hosted a side event at the sixteenth session of the Human Rights Council on the theme of "The fight against torture an agenda for change".
- Also in 2011, the Council hosted a side event at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly on the theme of "Rehabilitation of torture survivors how holistic treatment can heal the wounds and facilitate justice and prevention".

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

The Council has an ongoing collaboration with the main United Nations mechanisms dealing with torture and ill-treatment, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Committee against Torture and the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture. The Council engages with those mechanisms in developing thematic components of their work, especially in relation to the rehabilitation of victims of torture and ill-treatment and the forensic medical documentation of torture. Among the concrete activities that have been implemented are a briefing to the Committee against Torture on effective torture documentation and ongoing engagement with the former and current Special Rapporteurs on the same issue.

The Council implemented a project co-funded by the United Nations Office for Project Services to work with a recently established torture rehabilitation centre in Basra, Iraq, to develop its capacity to provide rehabilitation services to torture victims. The results of this activity included increased awareness of the provision of torture rehabilitation services in Basra, Iraq, and the official accreditation of the centre as a member of the Council, thereby certifying its competence and independence.

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

Due to the long-lasting physical and mental trauma suffered by victims of torture and ill-treatment, they subsequently suffer from a lack of enjoyment of a range of economic, social and cultural rights, especially in relation to education, employment, health and food. The lack of enjoyment of these basic rights negatively impacts the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. By facilitating and promoting access to holistic torture rehabilitation services on a global scale, the Council has actively promoted the realization of several of the Goals.

Furthermore, in November 2011, the Council issued a policy statement focusing on the links between poverty and torture. The statement expressed the deep concern of the Council that poverty is one of the major underlying factors keeping people perpetually vulnerable to torture and that torture tends to increase or deepen poverty by stripping victims of the ability to continue their livelihoods. The statement further called on States to take effective responsibility to include the eradication of torture and the right to rehabilitation in their poverty reduction policies and strategies, including all development policies and programmes.