

**Economic and Social Council**

Distr.: General  
6 November 2013

Original: English

---

**Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations**

**2014 regular session**

21-30 January and 7 February 2014

**Quadrennial reports for the period 2009-2012 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**

**Addendum**

**Contents**

	<i>Page</i>
1. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad . . . . .	2
2. Bar Association for International Governmental Organizations . . . . .	3
3. Be Active, Be Emancipated . . . . .	6
4. Benevolent Community Education and Rural Development Society . . . . .	8
5. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies . . . . .	9
6. Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict . . . . .	11
7. Canadian Voice of Women for Peace . . . . .	13
8. Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir . . . . .	14
9. Caucasian Feminist Initiative . . . . .	17
10. Center for Inquiry . . . . .	18
11. Center for Migration Studies of New York . . . . .	20
12. Center for Organisation Research and Education . . . . .	22
13. Center for Practice-Oriented Feminist Science . . . . .	23
14. Center for Reproductive Rights . . . . .	25
15. Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development . . . . .	27



## **1. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad**

**Special, 1997**

### **Introduction**

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad is a national voluntary woman's human rights and civil society organization established on 4 April 1971. The general membership comprises about 150,000 individuals. There are 2,051 grass-roots branches and 62 district branches throughout Bangladesh. The organization works to achieve gender equality through a multidimensional approach, which includes combating violence against women; promoting law reform, including the enactment of a uniform family code; running shelters; providing legal aid services; promoting women in politics; encouraging the effective participation of women in the Parliament and in local governments in Bangladesh; aiming at reserving one third of the seats for women and introducing direct elections for the reserved seats; working towards the full ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and domestication of the law in the light of the Convention; being involved in the movement for democracy and good governance in respect of the Convention; and being engaged in movements against fundamentalism.

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

The organization aims to establish a secular, democratic, equity-based society and State; protect and promote women's human rights; eliminate violence against women; create women's equal and meaningful participation in the political process and decision-making; and ensure good governance, gender justice, rule of law and the economic empowerment of women. This is being accomplished by:

- Building up a strong women's movement to mitigate the challenges of the twenty-first century by raising awareness and organizing women
- Promoting a socioeconomic and political environment for women's empowerment
- Strengthening and enhancing the organizational capacity of the organization
- Building up social resistance movements to eliminate violence against women and children and to enact gender-sensitive laws
- Ensuring the sustainability of the organization as an institution
- Promoting the economic empowerment of women

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

There have been no significant changes.

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

The organization has been linked with global and regional women's human rights movements since its inception. As a civil society organization affiliated with the Economic and Social Council, it expresses its solidarity with global women's movements on different issues, including monitoring of the implementation of the Convention, advocacy, campaigning for full ratification of the Convention (for

example, withdrawal of reservations to article 16 (1) (c)). In 2011, an alternative report was drafted by 35 organizations in Bangladesh and sent to the Committee.

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

The organization's representatives participated in the following:

- Fifty-third to fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women
- Thirty-third General Assembly of the International Council on Women on the theme "Progress for women is progress for all: evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals, gender equality and the empowerment of women", held in Seoul from 17 to 22 September 2012
- Discussion/meeting convened by UNDP in Bangladesh on 30 May 2012 on promoting women's political leadership and governance in India and South Asia
- Participating at the forty-eighth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in Geneva from 17 January to 4 February 2011

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

The organization is in close contact with UN-Women in Bangladesh, contributing to the development of its strategic plan. It is a member of the Civil Society Advisory Group of UN-Women. The organization has always expressed its solidarity and maintained a network with the global women's movement in international and regional events.

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

In order to help towards achievement of the targets of Goals 3, 5 and 7, the organization has undertaken advocacy activities and lobbied policymakers through a multidimensional approach. It has also organized programmes to observe International Women's Day (8 March), World AIDS Day (1 December), the Day to honour the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (3 September), World Day for the Prevention of Child Abuse (19 November), the International Day for Eliminating Violence against Women (25 November), the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Campaign and International Human Rights Day (10 December).

## **2. Bar Association for International Governmental Organizations**

### **Special, 2009**

#### **Introduction**

Bar Association for International Governmental Organizations was created in 2003 by private attorneys-at-law practising before various international administrative tribunals and courts, including the United Nations and the International Labour Organization Administrative Tribunals, the Asian Development Bank Tribunal, the European Court of Human Rights and others.

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

The organization's objective is to promote training and the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, pursuant to Article 62 of the Charter of the United Nations, and to have these principles recognized in the jurisprudence of all international tribunals. Its purposes are as follows:

- (a) To provide professional support and ongoing legal education to its members through the exchange of ideas and information;
- (b) To update legal skills and knowledge in order to encourage qualified jurists to provide legal counsel services;
- (c) To educate and instruct those interested in practising before such bodies;
- (d) To seek improvements in the internal administration of justice system within the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations by sponsoring educational exchanges and furthering respect for the law, for due process, and for accountability and transparency and by improving the quality of the legal services available to the intergovernmental organization community;
- (e) To offer options in the dispute resolution process, including mediation and/or legal representation, to intergovernmental organization staff members.

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

There have been no significant changes.

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

For over 20 years, members of the organization have been actively advocating and contributing to reforms in the United Nations internal justice system.

The key recommendations of the organization were implemented by the General Assembly in its resolutions, pursuant to which, on 1 July 2009, a new two-tiered jurisdiction system was created, namely, the United Nations Appeals Tribunal and the United Nations Dispute Tribunal. Since 2003, members of the organization have endeavoured to ensure more equality of arms within the United Nations internal justice system by providing, either on a pro bono basis or for a nominal fee, legal advice, training, counselling, mediation and legal representation in United Nations courts and tribunals.

The organization has also been very active and instrumental in the development of a legal aid system for United Nations staff and is currently helping to set up a system with the United Nations Staff Union. The organization remains committed to improving equality of arms between litigants before the United Nations Tribunals.

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

In 2010-2013, the organization participated in and contributed to stakeholder meetings held at the United Nations Appeals Tribunal and/or by the United Nations Dispute Tribunal in New York and Geneva. During the reporting period, the organization attended the annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council and participated in various meetings of the Fifth and Sixth Committees of the General Assembly. Since 2010, the organization has participated in meetings of,

and discussed work security and policy issues with, United Nations staff associations worldwide and their representatives, and has assisted them in the formulation of recommendations to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. In addition, in 2011 and 2012, the organization formulated specific recommendations for the President of the General Assembly and for the Fifth and Sixth Committees in order to provide assistance during the course of their deliberations on the issue of the administration of justice at the United Nations.

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

The organization cooperated with United Nations bodies, as follows:

- (a) Elaborated the rules of procedure, and rules of practice of the United Nations Appeals Tribunal and the United Nations Dispute Tribunal;
- (b) Submitted proposals for transitional measures between the old and new United Nations justice systems;
- (c) Contributed to defining the role of professional counsel, including arrangements for costs, facilities and a code of conduct for judges and for all attorneys participating in the United Nations internal justice system;
- (d) Provided recommendations ensuring equality of arms and adequate resources for the United Nations internal justice system;
- (e) Assisted the United Nations, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Office at Geneva, and United Nations staff associations and their representatives in formulating comments on the report of the Secretary-General on the administration of justice;
- (f) Offered training sessions on justice, on due process and on the rule of law at the United Nations to its membership, the staff unions and United Nations officials;
- (g) Attended work sessions of the United Nations Global Compact Initiative addressing corporate social responsibility and the Millennium Development Goals;
- (h) Contributed to the Government Accountability Project on accountability and whistle-blowing at the United Nations.

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

During the reporting period, the organization offered multiple training sessions worldwide to the representatives of other non-governmental organizations and contributed to the creation of two centres of excellence on the Millennium Development Goals in Asia and Europe. The members of the organization actively promoted the Millennium Development Goals as a new humanitarian charter for development within the context of human rights and corporate social responsibility.

### **3. Be Active, Be Emancipated**

**Special, 2005**

#### **Introduction**

Be Active, Be Emancipated is a strategic lobbying and advocacy group located in Zagreb that works towards the affirmation and implementation of women's human rights.

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

The organization lobbies for the recognition and improved status of women's human rights, such as the right to be free of violence, both at home and in the public sphere; the right to reproductive choice and reproductive health, including the decision of when to create and how to raise children; and the right to equal and full participation in all aspects of society, especially in leadership roles and decision-making, by supporting civil society in Croatia and cooperating with peace, human rights and ecology groups in the country.

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

The organization initiated the establishment of a human rights centre in Zagreb together with six other organizations in Croatia, bringing a gender perspective into all activities.

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

The organization enabled all members of its Human Rights House Network to be active in Human Rights Council sessions. Together with women from all over the world, it participated in the Council session devoted to discussions on women in conflict and post-conflict zones and has become an active member of the Colombo Group to protect women's human rights in conflict and post-conflict contexts.

The organization became a member of the Central and South European Advisory Group to the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in 2012, and since then has been active in exchanging information with representatives from other countries. Human rights organizations in Croatia established an informal coalition, "Platform 112", which focuses on monitoring and evaluating the performance of the Government and the Parliament.

Networking at the regional level led to the establishment of the Balkan Gender Equality Network, which aims at challenging not only patriarchal systems but also the diminishment of women's human rights, as witnessed in all countries of the region. Its continuous active participation with Women against Violence in Europe, its role as a focal point for Croatia and its active involvement in the KARAT Coalition have enabled the organization to understand problems within a broader context and to act jointly with many organizations.

The organization performed research on the attitudes and beliefs of youth in respect of gender equality in a region in Croatia with the financial support of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women. It conducted research on discrimination of minorities (Serb and Roma),

people with disabilities, women victims of violence and youth at risk in five Croatian regions. In 2012, the organization coordinated research in five countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia) on economic violence against women. Its legal advice centre received 8,000 cases during the reporting period regarding different violations of the human rights of the citizens of Croatia. The organization won four cases at the European Court for Human Rights.

The organization regularly published reports on the advancement of anti-discrimination measures taken by countries in the process of accession to the European Union, and will continue to report in the future. The organization conducted several awareness-raising campaigns related to gender equality, one of which was performed with the financial support of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women. It raised awareness for the working group of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the proposed general recommendation on the human rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

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

In 2009, the organization participated in the following:

- Fourth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council
- Seventy-fourth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, review of Croatia
- Tenth session of the Human Rights Council, regarding the follow-up to the review of Croatia
- Eleventh session of the Human Rights Council, at which the universal periodic review report on Croatia was adopted and during which the organization organized a side event with the Permanent Mission of Croatia to the United Nations
- Ninety-sixth session of the Human Rights Committee
- Ninety-seventh session of the Human Rights Committee, on the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights

In 2010, the organization participated in the following:

- Seventh session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, addressing the review of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Fifty-fourth session, including side events, of the Commission on the Status of Women
- Thirteenth session of the Human Rights Council, follow-up to the review of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Seventy-seventh session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, review of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Ninth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council, review of Croatia

In 2011, the organization participated in the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Human Rights Council.

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

The organization prepared documents, statements and reports for the sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, including a presentation on the protection of women's human rights in conflict and post-conflict contexts. In 2011-2012, the organization also participated in the: Committee's working group on the proposed general recommendation on the human rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations. In 2012, it collaborated with the UN-Women office in Bratislava and participated on its advisory board.

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

The activities of the organization incorporate a gender perspective and promote the empowerment of women, especially those at risk of social exclusion, including minority women, victims of violence, long-term unemployed women and rural women. Ensuring environmental sustainability and developing global partnerships for development are also in the focus of our work as added value elements in project implementation.

### **4. Benevolent Community Education and Rural Development Society**

#### **Special, 2001**

##### **Introduction**

Benevolent Community Education and Rural Development Society aims to alleviate poverty among the rural populations of Cameroon through microfinance development, introducing structural reforms and raising awareness about the importance of women and their roles in a developing society.

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

The organization aims to improve the living conditions of the urban and rural poor through multipurpose income-generating activities, the provision of food and the promotion of food security, skills development and other social services, in such areas as: microfinance development for agriculture, health prevention and education, environment and community development, exchanges of volunteers and consultancy and research.

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

There have been no significant changes.

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

The organization focuses its activities on the development and implementation of support projects for impoverished people in the south-western region of Cameroon in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also has expanded its training for women, and lobbied and sought



improved cooperation with the various Government departments whose activities fall within the organization's domain of intervention.

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

Representatives have not been able to secure visas to the United States of America or sufficient funds to travel to meetings held at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

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

Within the reporting period, the organization worked with its network of partners to implement a workshop in 2012 aiming at informing the public on the activities of the United Nations Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development in Buea, Cameroon. The organization also assisted the Government of Cameroon, which had obtained funds from its technical and financial partners, to implement a national community-driven development programme. In that regard, the organization participated in the development of a council development plan in Misaje, Cameroon.

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

In respect of Goal 1, the organization helped 7,000 men and women living below the poverty line to have access to training related to microfinance development, and staff capacity-building was provided at the Asian Rural Institute in Japan. In respect of Goal 3, 120 women were engaged in crop and livestock production. In respect of Goal 6, the organization carried out a sensitization campaign on HIV/AIDS and malaria and reinforced the capacity of councils and local institutions to control HIV/AIDS and malaria. In respect of Goal 7, the organization held a workshop on educating people on sustainable development.

## **5. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies**

### **Special, 1997**

#### **Introduction**

The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies is a regional human rights organization covering the Middle East and North Africa region. It is based in Cairo and also maintains a presence in Geneva and Paris.

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

The primary goal of the organization is to promote and protect human rights within the region. A major component of its work concerns United Nations human rights mechanisms. Its main concentration of work is in the areas of research, capacity-building and training, public advocacy and publications.

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

There have been no significant changes.

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

The organization continues to provide human rights training, including annual training programmes for students on human rights, training for human rights defenders on international human rights mechanisms, including the United Nations, and training programmes for such professionals as lawyers, judges and the representatives of the press. The training programmes educate participants on civil and political rights as well as on economic, social and cultural rights. They aim at enhancing human rights leadership and national ownership in the region and at fostering an atmosphere of respect for human rights, gender equality, good governance and the rule of law. The organization has trained and/or assisted 111 partners throughout the Arab region on how to work with United Nations human rights mechanisms.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization participated in:

- (a) Eleven sessions of the Human Rights Council submitting 75 written interventions and delivering 133 oral interventions. In addition, it organized or co-organized 48 side events;
- (b) Seven special sessions of Human Rights Council;
- (c) Five sessions of such treaty bodies as the Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child;
- (d) Universal periodic reviews on Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia and Yemen;
- (e) Other activities, including the session of the Economic and Social Council held in Geneva in July 2011 and the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee in August 2011.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization facilitated the submission of 516 information reports to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights issues throughout the Middle East and North Africa region. The organization regularly participated in workshops organized by the United Nations and its Member States covering areas such as freedom of religion and the protection and promotion of human rights in the context of peaceful protests. Its representatives:

- (a) Assisted the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence to convene a workshop in Cairo;
- (b) Participated in a panel discussion on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests, held during the eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council;
- (c) Organized, together with the International Service for Human Rights, a regional consultative meeting for the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful

assembly and of association, involving rights defenders and non-governmental organizations from the Middle East and North Africa region;

(d) Facilitated a meeting between its Yemeni partner, Sisters Arab Forum for Human Rights, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, at the twelfth session of the Human Rights Council;

(e) Conducted a briefing on the status of Egyptian women before the law and provide input through an oral intervention for the Panel on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women during the fifteenth session of the Human Rights Council.

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

The organization has been primarily engaged in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Arab region and in working on the issue of business and human rights. Examples include a full-day meeting on women's human rights and a joint oral intervention on women's equality before the law at the eleventh session of the Human Rights Council.

#### **Additional information**

The organization also participated in the review of Egypt at the 2010 session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

## **6. Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict**

### **Special, 2009**

#### **Introduction**

The Campaign for Innocent Victims in Conflict operates in Afghanistan, Mali, Pakistan, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United States.

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

The organization works to create a new global mindset around the ethical and strategic importance of civilian protection and response to harm, by conducting in-depth analyses on current conflicts and engaging directly with warring parties during both peacetime and wartime in order to develop policies and practices for civilian harm mitigation. The organization conducts advocacy and research on ongoing conflict situations in its countries of interest through engagement with civilians and outreach to warring parties. It also engages directly with militaries during peacetime in order to help them to better understand the impact of war on civilians and to develop policies and practices for mitigating harm committed against civilians during conflict.

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

The organization reconstituted its Board of Directors to better reflect its trajectory and to support its long-term growth.

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

In 2011-2012, the organization worked with Brazil to delineate the concept of the responsibility to protect, which the Brazilian delegation brought to the floor of the General Assembly of the United Nations in early 2013. In 2011, the Secretary-General formally welcomed the organization's policy on indirect fire, which was used by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) in its civilian protection efforts (see [S/2011/277](#)).

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

In 2012, the organization participated in a Group of Friends on the Protection of Civilians, recording civilian harm during conflict, making amends and providing information on unexploded ordnance. Representatives regularly attended meetings in Afghanistan, hosted by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the International Security Assistance Force and the Government of Afghanistan, on the protection of civilians. Since 2011, the organization has participated in monthly non-governmental organization working group meetings on the protection of civilians chaired by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat. In 2009, it created a framework with Switzerland for a United Nations expert round table on emerging civilian protection issues.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization regularly provided written submissions on the protection of civilian concerns to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs upon the renewal of the mandates for the International Security Assistance Force, AMISOM, and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It also attended a meeting hosted by the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum at the Social Sciences Research Council for United Nations senior officials on the protection of civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic. The organization is a formal member of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees (UNHCR) working group on the protection of civilians in Bamako. It conducted a briefing on tracking civilian harm in Mali to the working group. In 2012, the organization became a formal member of the UNAMA working group on the protection of civilians. It conducted a briefing on the protection of civilians in the Syrian Arab Republic for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support of the Secretariat. In 2011, with funding from UNHCR, it published the first comprehensive report on civilian harm in Somalia during conflict. In 2010, its concept of making amends was referenced for the first time in the report of the Secretary-General on the protection of civilians in armed conflict ([S/2010/579](#)). Upon a request from the United Nations, the organization advised AMISOM officers on the protection of civilians and addressing civilian harm.

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

The organization did not work towards any Millennium Development Goals.

## **7. Canadian Voice of Women for Peace**

**Special, 1997**

### **Introduction**

Established in 1960, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace is a non-partisan non-governmental organization that comprises a network of diverse women. For almost 50 years, the organization has tirelessly advocated for a world without war. It is one of the non-governmental organizations cited by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) standing committee in a working group report on the contribution of women to the culture of peace. The organization was the Canadian-lead group for peace at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing. Members have been active in follow-up activities, including writing a chapter on women and peace in that regard.

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

The organization aims to provide a means for women to exercise responsibility for the promotion of world peace and justice by educating themselves and others to take an equal part in the democratic process of decision-making; and to cooperate with women throughout the world to create the mutual respect and understanding necessary for the peaceful resolution of international conflict.

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

There have been no significant changes.

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

The work of the organization continued at all levels to focus on demilitarization, in particular the goal of general and complete disarmament, as stated in article 6 of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. For example, it strongly advocates and promotes education on the abolition of nuclear weapons. Since its founding in 1960, it has supported the Charter of the United Nations in efforts to put an end to the scourge of war and the threat of war. During the reporting period, it continued to promote the prevention of war through advocacy and training for a culture of peace. It coupled this with the promotion of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women, peace and security. Increasingly, it has addressed the interconnectedness of issues such as disarmament for development, sustainable development and development supportive of the life-sustaining needs of all living things. It has reached out to educate the public about climate change concerns and the need to reallocate excessive military expenditure to the central issues of non-military-based security. It has undertaken its work through lectures, programme series, conferences, seminars, workshops, letter-writing campaigns, newsletter articles, on-line campaigns, direct dialogue with Government officials, and briefs submitted at United Nations meetings.

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

During the reporting period, representatives participated in a number of meetings including:

(a) Sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. Each year, the organization organized a workshop/side event for non-governmental organizations related to the theme of the meeting. In 2011 and 2012, it submitted to the Chair a written statement, endorsed by many international non-governmental organizations, in which it called for the de-legitimization of war;

(b) Seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(c) Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, May 2010;

(d) United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012.

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

On 12 March 2009, together with UNDP Nairobi, the organization helped to conduct a workshop on the theme “UNDP diaspora workshop”, related to the diaspora and humanitarian assistance in Somalia. In 2011, it supported an international non-governmental organization open statement of concern (facilitated by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders) regarding Security Council resolution [1960 \(2010\)](#) and the need to focus on the full implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#). The statement was deposited with the Security Council. In 2012, the organization renewed its affiliation with the Canadian Commission for UNESCO.

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

Through its many public events and dialogues with politicians, it has been able to educate and advocate for the need to alleviate poverty (domestically and internationally).

## **8. Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir**

### **Special, 2009**

#### **Introduction**

Católicas por el Derecho a Decidir is a group of Catholic people, comprising mainly women. However, more and more young men are working to promote the organization’s message. It belongs to the Latin American Network of Catholics for a Free Choice, whose members are committed to seeking Catholic social justice and changing the cultural and religious patterns in society that violate the human rights of women.

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

The organization defends the sexual and reproductive rights of women as human rights and promotes improvements in the conditions of women. It supports the right of all women to decide how to resolve an unwanted pregnancy since it believes that the decriminalization of abortion saves lives, especially those of low-income women. Women, girls and young people have the right to be heard, to be taken into consideration by the authorities of the church and to participate on equal

terms in all areas of church life. The organization also supports maintaining the separation of church and state as the basis of democracy and as being essential to protecting and guaranteeing human rights.

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

There have been no significant changes.

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

In 2009, the organization:

(a) Contributed to a civil society organization report for an expert group during the forty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development in respect of the 15-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development;

(b) Collaborated on the development of two shadow reports for the fourth session of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva for the universal periodic review on human rights.

In 2010, the organization:

(a) Participated in the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration Platform for Action Review;

(b) Contributed to the report of Mexico on the Millennium Development Goals, highlighting the importance of maintaining a comprehensive approach to implementing the Cairo Programme of Action regarding the provision of sexual and reproductive health services;

(c) Coordinated, in collaboration with the Regional Alliance for Women and the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime, an international mission of experts that visited Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua to document the regional phenomenon of femicide;

(d) Submitted a report to the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights on violence against women and femicide, in which it highlighted women's lack of access to justice as a result of institutional violence in Mexico.

In 2011, the organization submitted a report detailing follow-up and lack of progress made in Mexico after the recommendations of the Human Rights Council at the 2009 universal periodic review on human rights. In 2012, the organization contributed to two shadow reports on femicide in Mexico, which were submitted to the fifty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Committee members took up information from those reports for the formal recommendations issued to the Government of Mexico.

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

In 2009, the organization attended the:

- Forty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development
- UNFPA-sponsored strategy meeting for Latin America held in Panama on the implementation of the 15-year review of the International Conference on Population and Development for women's networks sponsored

- Meeting of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean held in Chile in October on key advances and actions for the implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action

In 2010, the organization attended the:

- Fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women
- Eleventh Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Brazil

In 2011, it attended the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (with its representative serving as an official delegate), and in 2012, it attended the:

- Fifty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (with its representative serving as an official delegate)
- Forty-fifth session of the Commission on Population and Development
- Fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women
- Forty-ninth session of the Committee against Torture of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

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

The organization received funding from the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) from 2009 to 2011 for two HIV prevention projects involving Catholic youth. In addition, representatives met with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences in 2010 to discuss a report submitted to the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers describing the lack of access to justice for victims of femicide in Mexico. In 2011, representatives met with representatives of UN-Women to present a document analysing the homicide of women as well as with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to present information on the context of violence and on access to justice. Since 2011, the organization has received funding from the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women to improve women's access to a life free from violence.

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

The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in Mexico by advocating for comprehensive sexuality education and improved access to health services for adolescents and youth. In addition, the following observances were held during the reporting period: International Women's Day (8 March), International Day of Action for Women's Health (28 May), International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 November), the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence and World AIDS Day (1 December).



## **9. Caucasian Feminist Initiative**

**Special, 2005**

### **Introduction**

The Caucasian Feminist Initiative develops strategies to foster women's empowerment and gender equality in democratic governance. Placing the advancement of women's human rights at the centre of all of its efforts, the Caucasian Feminist Initiative undertakes research, and analytical, consulting, educational, informational and publishing activities. It holds conferences, seminars, lectures and meetings, conducts media campaigns and organizes public action.

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

The Caucasian Feminist Initiative continued to advocate for women's human rights and develop a network of organizations in all regions of Georgia and the South Caucasus. The organization carried out information and education programmes for civil society and policymakers on women's human rights and feminist politics, gender equality and gender-sensitive policies. In addition, it provided technical support to women politicians and women's grass-roots organizations in the region.

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

There have been no significant changes.

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

The Caucasian Feminist Initiative designated a permanent representative at United Nations Headquarters to contribute to work of the Economic and Social Council. In 2010, it advocated for gender-sensitive national legislation in Georgia, including the Gender Equality Law (adopted on 26 March 2010), the Action Plan for Women's Advancement for 2011-2013 (adopted on 5 May 2011) and the Action Plan for Implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#).

The organization conducted national action in support of the Gender Equality Law and effective institutional mechanisms for gender equality. In order to support an increase in women's political participation in the region, the organization began to develop the South Caucasus Women's Congress in 2010. The main objective of the Congress is to achieve efficient results in advancing women's rights in the region, ensure equal involvement of women in political processes and peacebuilding, and increase fruitful cooperation between women's groups, local governments and international actors.

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

Representatives attended the fifty-third to fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the forty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development.

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

During the reporting period, the Caucasian Feminist Initiative conducted successful partnerships with UNDP on a gender and politics programme for the

South Caucasus by participating in the work of the Advisory Council on Gender Equality within the Georgian Parliament. In addition, it represented a women's political coalition in the Advisory Council on Gender Equality, worked on the development of gender policies in Georgia and supported regional cooperation in the South Caucasus, as well as information-sharing and strategy development on gender equality issues. It also worked on the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and submitted an alternative report to the Committee. In 2012, it cooperated with UNDP in co-sponsoring a round table held in Tbilisi with the political parties of Georgia. The objective of the round table was to promote gender mainstreaming in political party programmes in Georgia. Also in 2012, a Caucasian Feminist Initiative representative became a member of the Global Civil Society Advisory Board of UN-Women.

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

The Caucasian Feminist Initiative contributed to Goal 3 by promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in the South Caucasus and to Goal 5 by organizing campaigns, providing training and preparing relevant policies papers in Georgia for a review of civil society and the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

### **Additional information**

The main focus of organization during the reporting period was to work on the monitoring and evaluation of national and international gender-related policies.

## **10. Center for Inquiry**

### **Special, 2005**

#### **Introduction**

The Center for Inquiry, founded in 1991, is a non-profit educational and advocacy organization that advances science, reason and secular values in public affairs and at the grass-roots level. It is not affiliated with, nor does it promote, any political party or ideology. It maintains staffed outreach branches and supports campus groups across the United States and in more than a dozen countries, offering intellectual and social programming; publishes magazines (*Free Inquiry* and *Skeptical Inquirer*) and a podcast (*Point of Inquiry*); lobbies the Government of the United States on science and secularism; and maintains a presence at the United Nations as a non-governmental organization having special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

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

The mission of the organization is to foster a secular society based on science, reason, freedom of inquiry and humanist values. Three goals in particular represent the focus of its activities:

- Ending the influence that religion and pseudoscience have on public policy

- Ending the privileged position that religion and pseudoscience enjoy in many societies
- Ending the stigma attached to being a non-believer, whether non-believers describe themselves as atheists, agnostics, humanists, freethinkers or skeptics

**Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The organization has worked to protect the rights to freedom of religion, belief and expression, which are guaranteed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other important treaties and agreements. Its work has included organizing events and sponsoring long-term educational campaigns such as the Campaign for Free Expression in order to inform the public about the importance of these issues; and mobilizing its members to help the cause, especially for people who face persecution abroad as a result of their religion, belief or speech. In 2009, the organization launched a campaign to oppose the Human Rights Council resolution on combating defamation of religions, writing to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Human Rights Council in that regard.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

In 2009, the organization attended the tenth session of the Human Rights Council, issued a statement on the resolution entitled “Combating defamation of religions” and submitted a statement critical of the concept of advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility and violence.

In 2011, at the sixteenth session of the Human Rights Council, it collaborated with the International Humanist and Ethical Union to deliver a statement opposing blasphemy laws as well as a statement addressing the importance of protecting the right to freedom of expression on the Internet. In 2012, it attended the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council and submitted a written statement stressing the importance of gender equality to economic development.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

In 2012, the organization met with the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and presented him with a report detailing laws around the world that restrict the rights to freedom of religion or belief, and instances of non-religious persons facing discrimination and persecution.

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

No activities were specified.

## **11. Center for Migration Studies of New York**

**Special, 2001**

### **Introduction**

The Center for Migration Studies of New York was established in 1969. It is an educational institute/think tank devoted to the study of international migration, to the promotion of understanding between immigrants and receiving communities and to public policies that safeguard the dignity and rights of migrants, refugees and newcomers.

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

The organization is a member of the Scalabrini International Migration Network, a global network of more than 270 entities that provide services to migrants, including shelters along migrant corridors and welcoming (integration) centres in receiving communities.

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

There have been no significant changes.

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

The organization supports the work of the United Nations primarily through its three principal activities:

(a) Publishing cutting-edge journals, books, conference proceedings, occasional papers and policy-related analyses. Its signature publication, the *International Migration Review*, is the leading social science journal covering the field of international migration, and its new peer-reviewed public policy publication, the *Journal on Migration and Human Security*, was launched in 2012 to feature issues, perspectives and policy ideas that receive insufficient attention in the national and global immigration debate;

(b) Sponsoring conferences, meetings, briefings and seminars on migration-related issues and policies to serve as forums for the dissemination of research, policy analysis, information and ideas between a broad range of stakeholders on migration issues, including United Nations entities, government officials, non-governmental organizations, scholars, community-based organizations, the media and the private sector;

(c) Maintaining an extensive set of archives on the history of immigration in the United States, to provide first-hand, primary source accounts and to inform discourses, domestically and globally.

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

The organization's representatives were featured participants in high-profile migration-related gatherings for the United Nations.

In 2009, a representative of the organization was a key panellist for a seminar on illegal migration for the Human Development Report Office. In 2012, the organization:

- (a) Made an oral intervention at the Tenth Coordination Meeting on International Migration;
- (b) Attended an event on the theme “Interactive dialogue fighting human trafficking: partnership and innovation to end violence against women and girls”;
- (c) Gave a presentation on human rights-centred immigration policies and practices for the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on Migration;
- (d) Attended two briefings on the preparations for the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development;
- (e) Attended the Civil Society Days in Mauritius as part of the 2012 Global Forum on Migration and Development and co-moderated a session each in Mauritius on protecting migrant labourers and on protecting migrants in dire humanitarian circumstances;
- (f) Participated as a featured speaker on a panel on the theme “Migration and development: causes and impacts”, convened by the Second Committee of the General Assembly.

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

The organization was significantly involved in the organization and promotion of various meetings of the organizations and bodies of the United Nations.

In 2010, the organization and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) co-sponsored an event on the theme “Conference on irregular migration: legal and policy perspectives”.

In 2011, it joined UNHCR, Human Rights First and Georgetown University Law Center to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Status of Refugees, with a representative serving as a panel moderator.

In 2012, the organization:

- (a) Hosted a gathering with the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations and other international organizations on migration-related challenges and global priorities;
- (b) Co-organized two major annual migration conferences with IOM. The organization and IOM co-organized and co-hosted an event on the theme “Mainstreaming migration into development planning: assessing the evidence, continuing the dialogue”, in partnership with UNDP and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation;
- (c) Participated in a small gathering of non-governmental organization leaders with the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations, to discuss the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development;
- (d) Participated in a global experts meeting of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD).

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

No activities were specified.

## **12. Center for Organisation Research and Education**

**Special, 2005**

### **Introduction**

The Center for Organisation Research and Education was established in 1987. The organization's mission is to "work towards recognition and respect for the right to a self-determined future, in partnership with the indigenous peoples of India, with respect for our ancient inheritance, building on our faith in humanity's role of trusteeship of resources, in peace with all other peoples".

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

The aims and objectives of the organization are:

(a) To contribute to socially equitable, economically efficient and environmentally sound development through the application of science, technology and management to the national utilization of resources and information for increased human well-being and the conservation of the natural environment;

(b) To achieve satisfaction of basic human needs through widespread diffusion of appropriate technology and the establishment of equitable exchange systems through proper and accurate identification of local needs; to select, generate, improve, adopt and develop appropriate technologies and support the development of appropriate distribution systems, in particular for the underprivileged in rural and urban areas;

(c) To promote conservation and management of the natural and built environments through ecologically and economically sustainable and energy conserving extraction, production, distribution and service systems;

(d) To promote and establish effective education, training, skills upgrading, documentation and information processing and dissemination programmes, facilities for schools and non-formal education and artisan and professional training programmes that draw on local and indigenous cultures or subcultures and specific traditions. It also works to provide information, create databases and to develop appropriate interfaces with other cultural, traditional or modern media technologies, policies and information systems;

(e) To establish and support community-based development and legal aid programmes for specific problems and issues as needed or desired by specific sections or communities such as tribes, women, children, the economically deprived or other disadvantaged groups;

(f) To disseminate, through appropriate mass media, and develop for mass media and for the public by way of film, television, radio, theatre and the arts, programmes on culture, arts and crafts, development, science, technology and the environment or other issues of interest;

(g) To provide support services for the planning, development and management of local and indigenous productions, co-operatives, Government or voluntary institutions.

**Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The organization has produced education materials, books, information reports, periodicals, journals, occasional papers and a range of grey literature to complement and support the work of the United Nations. The Human to Humane Transcultural Centre for Trauma and Mental Health was set up following the mandate and principles of the United Nations. The projects of that Centre are currently funded by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. In addition, workshops, training programmes, seminars and consultations are held on thematic issues identified by the United Nations.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

In 2009 and 2010, the organization participated in the eighth and ninth sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Also in 2010, it participated in the second session of Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

During the reporting period, the organization focused on local and grass-roots capacity-building and network-building in order to engage more effectively with the United Nations and its specialized agencies and mandates, and to campaign for indigenous peoples' rights in respect of their natural and cultural heritage.

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

The organization conducted workshops, seminars, training programmes, awareness-raising programmes and consultations at the local, national and international levels on specific development and indigenous peoples issues in line with the Goals. It also coordinated and networked with relevant local, national and international bodies on development and other rights-based issues.

**13. Center for Practice-Oriented Feminist Science****Special, 2001****Introduction**

The Center for Practice-Oriented Feminist Science is an independent research and practice institute. It explores new knowledge and develops innovative strategies, approaches and models for achieving equal rights for women and men on global and local bases. Its particular focus is to solve problems in the areas of gender-specific violence, and sexuality and reproductive health and rights, including such areas as traditional practices, including female genital mutilation, HIV/AIDS and overpopulation. The organization also trains men and women to implement the developed strategies, approaches and models in their professional lives.

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

One of the main focuses of the organization's work is to end female genital mutilation as soon as possible and on a sustainable basis.

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

There have been no significant changes.

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

In respect of its contributions at the international, national and local levels, the organization primarily continues to offer new innovative scientific strategies that aim to have sustainable results in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. It disseminates information on the UNICEF multi-country study on solving the female genital mutilation issue, educates gender equality experts in their work to combat female genital mutilation, promotes best practice interventions and publishes research papers on behavioural changes that bring about social change.

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

In 2010, the organization attended the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and made an oral statement.

In 2011, the organization attended the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and made an oral statement. It also attended the launch of UN-Women, the sixty-fourth annual United Nations Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organizations Conference and the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council, where it made an oral statement on grass-roots people's thoughts and feelings about real teaching and the value-centred approach.

In 2012, it attended a forum held in Berlin, Germany, to prepare for the 2013 session of the Commission on the Status of Women and presented a paper on the need for gender equality experts.

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

In 2009 and 2010, the organization collaborated on research papers with UNICEF on the value-centred approach in Kenya. It continued its cooperation with UNICEF and the UNFPA Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation in respect of drafting policy and work plans to promote abandoning the practice. Also in 2010, the organization participated in e-discussions with UNDP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat on the theme "Women and poverty: sharing experiences and good practices with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles".

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

Through the Fulda Mosochi Project in Kenya, the organization carried out various initiatives in support of Goals 3 and 5.



### **Additional information**

In 2011, the organization was awarded the “Sophie-La-Roche” peace dove by the German Association of University Women for promoting human rights for Kenyan women and their families.

## **14. Center for Reproductive Rights**

### **Special, 1997**

#### **Introduction**

The Center for Reproductive Rights is a human rights organization that uses the law to advance reproductive freedom as a fundamental human right that all Governments are legally obligated to protect, respect and fulfil. Using international human rights law to advance the reproductive freedom of women, the Center has strengthened reproductive health laws and policies globally by working with more than 100 organizations in 45 nations, including countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

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

The Center works to create a world where every woman is free to decide whether and when to have children, has access to the best reproductive health care available and can exercise her choices without coercion or discrimination.

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

There have been no significant changes.

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

The Center for Reproductive Rights regularly submits shadow letters to United Nations treaty-monitoring bodies, supplementing the periodic reports of Governments and thereby playing an essential role in providing a credible and reliable independent source of information. During the reporting period, the Center submitted shadow letters to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee against Torture, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Human Rights Council. The shadow letters addressed the situation of reproductive rights in countries across the globe, including Brazil, Hungary, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Uganda and the United States on a range of issues related to sexual and reproductive rights.

Additionally, the Center for Reproductive Rights, in conjunction with local partner organizations, received views from the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on two individual petitions: *L.C. v. Peru* and *Alyne da Silva Pimentel v. Brazil*. The Center provided input to treaty monitoring bodies regarding proposed general recommendations and comments through written submissions and participation in thematic consultations. For example, in 2011 the Center provided a written submission to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the issue of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, and one of the Center’s legal advisers for Africa participated in the

Committee's regional consultation on the proposed general recommendation on the topic (Addis Ababa, April 2012). Since 2008, the Center has increased its engagement with the Human Rights Council considerably, supporting a number of resolutions on issues such as maternal mortality and morbidity, and engaging in the universal periodic review process.

The Center also continued to engage with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2012, supporting the development of technical guidance on a human rights-based approach to maternal mortality and morbidity (A/HRC/14/39) and co-hosting a side event to launch the guidance provided. The Center also engaged with Special Rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteurs on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, on torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, and on the situation of human rights defenders. In 2012, the Center, together with partner non-governmental organizations, organized a meeting with the Special Rapporteur on torture, focusing on torture in health care settings. The Center also provided several submissions for the report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue.

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

The Center attended in the forty-fifth session of the Commission on Population and Development in 2012, submitted an oral statement and hosted a side event on the theme "Sexual and reproductive health decision-making: respecting young people's evolving capacity and rights. In 2010, it attended the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, produced written comments on the draft resolution in collaboration with partners, submitted an oral statement and hosted three side events.

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

In December 2012, the Center co-published with UNFPA a report entitled "Reproductive rights: a tool for monitoring State obligations", which identifies key questions that human rights experts and bodies can use to evaluate State compliance with a range of reproductive rights issues. The Center also has a history of cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on such issues before the Human Rights Council as maternal mortality.

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

Throughout 2010, the Center worked with a coalition of non-governmental organizations to promote incorporation of a human rights-based approach to the Goals, including hosting a side event on the theme "Millennium Development Goals without human rights: an empty promise".

## **15. Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development**

**Special, 2005**

### **Introduction**

The Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, an autonomous research institute, was registered as a scientific and educational charitable society in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, India in July 1978. It was conceived to promote research, publications, development projects, training programmes and similar creative activities in the north-western region of the country. It is among the 27 research institutes in the country supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research in New Delhi. The organization was accorded national status in 1984 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, in recognition of its contribution to the cause of social science research in the broader national perspective. Since 1984 both the Government of India and the government of Punjab have been supporting the organization by providing regular financial grants on a matching basis through the Indian Council of Social Science Research and the Department of Planning, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh.

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

The primary focus of the organization has been to carry out socially relevant research on rural and industrial development in the wider social, economic and political contexts, in view of the contemporary emerging scenario at the regional, national and global levels.

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

The organization amended its constitution or by-laws, as follows: “The Governing Body shall have the authority to accept the nominees on the Society who are deputed by the Indian Council of Social Science Research or the State Governments.” It also became affiliated with the following, which had programmatic or other implications: Reserve Bank of India Professor Chair, Mumbai, India; State Bank of India Professor Chair, Mumbai; Nehru Steel Authority of India Chair, New Delhi, and the Ministry of External Affairs.

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

No contribution was specified.

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

In 2009, representatives attended two UNDP conferences on decentralization and climate change, held in Patna, India, from 7 to 9 July, and in New Delhi, from 22 to 24 October. In 2010, representatives attended a UNDP workshop on 29 and 30 April in New Delhi and UNDP regional consultative meeting on 19 October in Chandigarh, India. In 2011, representatives attended a seminar organized on 14 October in New Delhi by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and UNDP on the theme “Financial inclusion: partnership between banks, the mutual funds industry and communities”.

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

An impact assessment was sponsored by the UNDP office in New Delhi and the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, for a national rural employment guarantee scheme in Punjab, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh, India.

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

The organization's initiatives in support of the Goals are detailed below.

**Goal 1.** Initiatives included the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme and rural development programmes in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir (India).

**Goal 2.** The organization carried out a primary education project in Chandigarh, India, and a study of *gurukuls* and madarasas.

**Goal 5.** The organization undertook initiatives involving health-care services, immunization services and maternal and child health services in Punjab and Haryana, India.

**Goal 7.** The organization promoted sustained clean coal technology capacity in India, sponsored by the European Commission, as well as solid waste management and sanitation incentives in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh.

**Goal 8.** The organization developed a global partnership for development project involving cooperative development, peace and security in South and Central Asia, which was sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs.

---