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Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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1. Network “Earth Village”

Special, 2002

Introduction

Network “Earth Village” is a civic organization that deals with the eradication of poverty in developing countries, solves refugee problems resulting from disputes and conserves the environment in Africa, India, South-East Asia, and in the Amazon region.

Aims and purposes of the organization

In cooperation with local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the organization develops laws, enforces juridical policy, and continues educational programmes to eradicate slave trade and child prostitution worldwide. Network “Earth Village” also plants trees to conserve the tropical rainforests in the Amazon region. Ever since the nuclear power plant disaster in Japan in 2011, the organization has campaigned for non-nuclear power through lectures and the publication of books.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization gave lectures and published books to promote the United Nations agenda regarding the environment, development and peace. It participated in setting up arrangements to establish the Japanese committee of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Network “Earth Village” participated in the Control Arms Campaign and successfully lobbied the Government of Japan to sign the Arms Trade Treaty. The organization sent donations to 15 countries stricken by natural disasters and cooperated with the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia, which has general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. It also cooperated with Save the Children Japan.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012. Network “Earth Village” appealed to abolish the use of nuclear power and obtained the approval of 611 organizations for its campaign.

The organization participated in the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010.

The organization also participated in the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, held in Changwon, Republic of Korea, in October 2011.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization cooperated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and sent donations to Bangladesh, Chad,

Ethiopia, Kenya, Pakistan, Somalia and Zambia. It cooperated with the World Food Programme (WFP) to donate food after the earthquake in Haiti in 2010.

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

The organization's activities did not focus on specific initiatives in fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals, but rather on supporting the overall development agenda through advocacy and outreach. It sent donations to address the following activities in: Zambia, to increase the independence of rural farmers; the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda, to rehabilitate former child soldiers and survivors of conflict; Viet Nam, to save street children; Cambodia and India, to rehabilitate victims of the slave trade; Brazil, to preserve rainforests; Bhutan, to build a waste landfill in Thimphu and to preserve the ecosystem; Africa, to support the green belt movement as part of a reforestation effort; and Okinawa, Japan, to conserve the sea.

2. New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council

Special, 1998

Introduction

The Australian State of New South Wales has the highest Aboriginal population in Australia. This population is served by a two-tiered network of membership-based, democratically operated and non-governmental Aboriginal land councils established through the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983. The New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council is the elected body representing the interests of Aboriginal peoples in New South Wales and has legislative responsibilities to protect and promote the rights of Aboriginal peoples.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 was enacted in recognition of, and in an attempt to remedy, the ongoing effects of the dispossession of Aboriginal peoples in New South Wales. The objectives and purposes of the Act and the claim process are significant in the light of the obligations of Australia under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which Australia ratified in April 2009.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Council has continued to take a practical approach to international advocacy while seeking to have international human rights standards adopted and applied at the country and local levels for the benefit of Aboriginal peoples.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Council attended the following sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:

- Ninth session (19-30 April 2010, New York), on a special theme entitled “Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity: articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples”
- Tenth session (16-27 May 2011, New York)
- Eleventh session (7-18 May 2012, New York) on a special theme entitled “The doctrine of discovery: its enduring impact on indigenous peoples and the right to redress for past conquests (articles 28 and 37 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples)”
- Twelfth session (20-31 May 2013, New York)

The Council also attended the tenth session of the universal periodic review for the first appearance of Australia under the new Human Rights Council mechanism of the United Nations, in Geneva, on 27 January 2011. The Council prepared a list of five key recommendations for Member States to consider in their address to the Government of Australia during its review.

The Council sent delegations to attend the following sessions of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, held in Geneva:

- Third session (12-16 July 2010), entitled “Study on indigenous peoples and the right to participate in decision-making”
- Fifth session (9-13 July 2012), on, among other topics, a study on the role of languages and culture in the promotion and protection of the rights and identity of indigenous peoples
- Sixth session (12-15 July 2013), on, among other topics, a study on the access to justice in the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, which included truth and reconciliation processes

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

From 19 to 21 March 2013, the Council co-hosted the regional preparatory meeting of the Pacific indigenous peoples in Sydney, Australia, one of seven such regional meetings organized by the United Nations in preparation for the World Conference on Indigenous People of 2014. The Council formed part of the delegation that represented itself and Australia at the preparatory conference hosted by the Sami Parliament in Alta, Norway, in June 2013.

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

The Council did not undertake specific initiatives related to the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals. Rather, as part of its legislative obligations, the Council has a statutory objective to support and advocate on behalf of all Aboriginal peoples across New South Wales.

3. Organization for the Solidarity of the Peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America

Special, 1998

Introduction

The Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America is an international NGO, founded in January 1966. During its 48 years of existence, the Organization has devoted itself to promoting solidarity among peoples of developing countries by promoting support, cooperation, friendship and unity among them, on the basis of respect for diversity, inalienable right to independence, self-determination and territorial integrity.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Organization organizes or attends international conferences and solidarity meetings, publishes the *Tricontinental* magazine in Spanish four times a year and the *Tricontinental Bulletin* in English and Spanish once a week, and makes public statements closely related to concerns, programmes and resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies of the United Nations system. Among them, it focuses on the respect for human rights in their universality and indivisibility; advocates the right to sustainable development with social justice and the struggle against poverty; promotes the abolition of all forms of social exclusion and of racial, gender or ethnic discrimination; and, more recently, advocates policies to mitigate climate change, which is threatening the survival of humanity.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Organization actively participated in the preparatory process towards the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which included:

- Engaging in negotiations for the international call for the event entitled the “Peoples’ summit for social and environmental justice” (14 December 2011)
- Being part of the organizing committee of the World Social Forum for the initiative entitled “Capitalist crisis, social and environmental justice” held in Porto Alegre, Brazil (24-29 January 2012)
- Contributing to the development of a website on species in danger, an initiative of the Cuban chapter of the Network in Defence of Humanity, presented on 11 February 2012

The Organization has been participating annually in the forum of national and international NGOs, which comprises approximately 170 NGOs, coordinated by the Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas, on the blockade against Cuba, in accordance with the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly over 22 consecutive years. The Organization participates in the meetings of national and international NGOs in Cuba to observe every year the World Telecommunication

and Information Society Day on 17 May, the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture on 26 June and Human Rights Day on 10 December.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Organization:

(a) Attended the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Climate Change Framework held in Cancún, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010, and the international forum of the peoples on climate justice held in parallel (3-11 December);

(b) Attended the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and the peoples' summit, held in parallel from 15 to 23 June;

(c) Submitted written contributions to the Human Rights Council on:

(i) The universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (10 March 2011);

(ii) The second review of Cuba (3 October 2012);

(iii) The second review of China (13 February 2013);

(d) Attended meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in relation to the periodic review of Cuba (2013).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Organization cooperates closely with the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People and has assigned a Liaison Officer to the International Coordinating Committee for Non-Governmental Organizations on the Question of Palestine. The Organization submitted a research paper for and presided over the closure of the United Nations Latin America and the Caribbean Meeting in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace held in Montevideo on 29 and 30 March 2011.

The Organization observes the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People every year on 29 November. It is part of the programme of action on peace and nuclear disarmament and of the working group in support of the Argentine sovereignty claim over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).¹ Both were created in 2012 and are coordinated by the Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas.

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

The Organization attended a national workshop to consult civil society on the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 agenda, and participated in a workshop on the post-2015 agenda and the Millennium Development Goals in Havana, on 22 May and 4 October 2013, respectively.

¹ A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

4. Oxfam International

General, 2002

Introduction

Oxfam International is a worldwide development organization that mobilizes the power of people against poverty. It is a confederation of 17 organizations working together in more than 90 countries. Oxfam International works to find practical, innovative ways for people to lift themselves out of poverty. It saves lives, helps to rebuild livelihoods when crisis strikes and campaigns so that the voices of the poor influence the local and global decisions that affect them. Oxfam International works with partner organizations and alongside vulnerable women and men to end the injustices that cause poverty.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's mission and work are based on the following aims: the right to life and security; the right to a sustainable livelihood; the right to essential services; the right to be heard; and the right to an identity. The purpose of Oxfam International is to help to create lasting solutions to the injustice of poverty. It is part of a global movement for change, one that empowers people to create a future that is secure, just and free from poverty. Its current strategic plan has six goals: (a) the right to be heard: people claiming their right to a better life; (b) advancing gender justice; (c) saving lives, now and in the future; (d) sustainable food; (e) fair sharing of natural resources; (f) financing for development and universal essential services.

Significant changes in the organization

Three organizations have recently become affiliated with Oxfam International: Oxfam India, Oxfam Italy and Oxfam Japan.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Oxfam works closely with the United Nations, including with UNHCR, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WFP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. By combining national and global advocacy with local programmes that empower communities to hold their leaders to account, Oxfam International influences policy changes that will have a long-term impact on millions of people, thereby contributing to the work of the United Nations. The list below provides a small selection of Oxfam International's work, participation in the work of the United Nations and cooperation with it during the reporting period:

- Assisting refugees at the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan with gaining access to essential water and sanitation services, with support from UNICEF
- Implementing food security programmes in Mali with WFP
- Working closely with the United Nations and Member States ahead of the General Assembly's decision in 2009 to open formal negotiations to adopt an arms trade treaty, and continuing to help to lead the international NGO campaign to conclude the treaty successfully at the United Nations conferences held in July 2012 and March 2013

- Sharing information on assistance to and protection of civilians and advocating those issues at the General Assembly and the Security Council
- Participating in the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in the Republic of Korea in November and December 2011, and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Brazil in June 2012
- Engaging extensively with and participating in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

See above.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

See above.

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

Almost all of Oxfam International's programmes contribute to the Millennium Development Goals, directly affecting millions of people. The organization is also engaged in advocacy to support the Goals. Examples of what Oxfam International has achieved are:

- Goal 1: Oxfam International undertakes projects in food security worldwide. It has conducted food crisis advocacy at the United Nations and with donors in response to the food crises in the Horn of Africa and the Sahel. It has launched a 50-country campaign called "Grow", with a goal of ensuring that everyone has enough to eat.
- Goals 2, 4 and 5: Oxfam International has focused on delivering health and education programmes and campaigned with others for the right to accessible and affordable essential services.
- Goal 3: Oxfam International advances women's rights and gender equality by including the issue of gender in all of its programmes, campaigns and internal systems and focusing its attention on ending violence against women and transforming leadership for promoting women's rights.
- Goal 7: Oxfam International and its partners work to provide safe water and sanitation to millions. It also campaigns for an ambitious climate change agenda, including through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

5. Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand)

Special, 2010

Introduction

Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) is a leading umbrella organization open to all women's organizations and individuals. It provides mentoring, advocacy and communication capability for a significant cross-section of women's NGOs in New Zealand. The organization's mandate includes ensuring that women's voices

from the Pacific subregion are heard locally, nationally and internationally. The organization is affiliated with Asia Pacific Women's Watch.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) aims to secure women's and girls' human rights under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Beijing Platform for Action and relevant outcome documents of the General Assembly.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization's membership has increased substantially from organizations focusing on the prevention of gender-based violence, leading to a dramatic increase in the attendance of representatives at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in 2013.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

With regard to the Beijing Platform for Action, Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) organized nationwide workshops to gather material for the non-governmental country report of New Zealand in 2010. The 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action included a national longitudinal survey, workshops and statistical, academic and community research for submission to the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) submitted the NGO alternative report to the pre-session working group of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in Geneva, in 2011. It organized a capacity-building workshop of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in Auckland, New Zealand, from 12 to 14 April 2013, and financed travel for women advocates from 19 organizations, facilitated by the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific.

With regard to the universal periodic review, Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) submitted the NGO alternative report to the Human Rights Council in Geneva, in June 2013.

It submitted a report on forced underage marriage to select committees of the parliament of New Zealand in 2010 and lobbies the Government on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) participated in the fifty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (9-27 July 2012) in New York for the review of the seventh report of New Zealand.

Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand) participated in annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women from 2011 to 2013 in New York, where it organized side events on claiming space for women from the Pacific in the international arena at the fifty-fifth session (22 February-4 March and 14 March

2011) and on “Unique indigenous, non-indigenous and Pasifika approaches to violence against women and girls in Aotearoa/New Zealand” at the fifty-seventh session (4-15 March 2013).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

No cooperation was specified.

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

Millennium Development Goal 3: the organization financed two leadership mentoring workshops, coordinated by the Young Women’s Christian Association Solomon Islands in Honiara, in 2011 and 2012.

Millennium Development Goal 7: the organization donated water and septic tanks to village preschools in Taveuni, Fiji, in 2010.

6. Parliamentarians for Global Action

General, 1998

Introduction

With approximately 1,100 members in 139 parliaments from all over the world, Parliamentarians for Global Action is the largest non-governmental, non-partisan international network of elected legislators.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aim of Parliamentarians for Global Action is to contribute to the creation of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world. Its mission, as a non-profit, non-partisan international network of committed legislators, is to inform and mobilize parliamentarians globally to advocate human rights and the rule of law, human security and gender equality. To achieve these goals, it brings together parliamentarians and key stakeholders, including civil society and international organizations across sectors, and equips legislators with relevant knowledge and expertise to implement programmes and initiatives.

Significant changes in the organization

Parliamentarians for Global Action became a fiscal agent and host for the secretariat of Control Arms, a global civil society campaign. It also became a member of the following NGO coalitions: Control Arms, Girls Not Brides and the World Coalition against the Death Penalty. Between 2010 and 2013, two regional parliaments and 600 new members from 98 countries joined Parliamentarians for Global Action.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Parliamentarians for Global Action contributed to the work of the United Nations in the following ways:

- It organized a seminar on gender, equality and population programme from 9 to 11 October 2013, which focused on protecting human rights, combating

discrimination and addressing the problems faced by persons with diverse sexual orientation and gender identities who live with HIV or AIDS. The programme supports the Free and Equal campaign launched by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

- It participated in the work of UNDP and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS).
- It presented the Control Arms Global Parliamentary Declaration on the Arms Trade Treaty to the Secretary-General in New York on 3 July 2012. The Arms Trade Treaty was adopted by the General Assembly in April 2013.
- It organized with UNDP a parliamentary seminar on the rights of victims in Kampala, in September 2013.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Parliamentarians for Global Action participates in the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. It also attends conferences on the Arms Trade Treaty and organizes side meetings on clean water and renewable energy and on the Treaty for legislators.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Parliamentarians for Global Action partnered with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to implement the parliamentary initiative to improve maternal health and reproductive rights (Millennium Development Goal 5) and advance gender equality (Millennium Development Goal 3) in Islamic countries. Parliamentarians for Global Action served as a member of the steering committee of the International Parliamentarians' Conference on the Implementation of the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action.

The United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation is funding Parliamentarians for Global Action for a project to promote the Arms Trade Treaty.

Parliamentarians for Global Action has 13 permanent representatives to the United Nations to host meetings and assist it with enhancing its collaboration with the United Nations.

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

- Parliamentarians for Global Action organized a parliamentary initiative to improve maternal health and reproductive rights (Millennium Development Goal 5) and advance gender equality (Millennium Development Goal 3) in Islamic countries, with the support and cooperation of UNFPA, in March 2012.
- Parliamentarians for Global Action organized a strategy meeting with UNFPA in the context of the thirty-second Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action, entitled “Empowering women: building human security”, in Istanbul, Turkey (23-24 October 2010). The Forum was co-funded by UNFPA.

7. Physicians for Social Responsibility

Special, 2002

Introduction

Physicians for Social Responsibility is an independent non-profit organization with over 40,000 members and activists throughout the United States of America. It is the affiliate in the United States of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Physicians for Social Responsibility addresses the gravest threats to human health and survival. It works to educate the public and policymakers about addressing threats to human health and survival and to create improved policies to primarily prevent their occurrence. The goal of Physicians for Social Responsibility is to abolish nuclear weapons, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, advocate energy efficiency and the use of clean energy, such as wind, solar, hydropower and geothermal power, and limit expensive and unsafe nuclear power. Lastly, Physicians for Social Responsibility promotes stringent regulations of chemical toxins.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Physicians for Social Responsibility works to educate and inspire action on the serious health consequences and preventable causes of climate change. It exposes the impact of drought, extreme weather and rising temperatures on agricultural production and the threat of worsening hunger and death by starvation. It also advocates policies to mitigate climate change in order to avoid the worsening of the acidification of the oceans, rising sea level and air pollution, which again will worsen hunger and starvation from loss of seafood production and arable land. Physicians for Social Responsibility has contributed to the closure of numerous coal-burning power plants in the United States and supports the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (Assembly Bill No. 32) in California. It is actively organizing a climate and health alliance in the United States with an international committee to share information and collaborate more efficiently. Physicians for Social Responsibility educates about the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and encourages better examination of the health impacts of the disastrous meltdown and ongoing radiation releases at Fukushima Daiichi by invoking the involvement of the United States and the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation.

Physicians for Social Responsibility also campaigns for stronger international support and attention to stop radiation release. It advocates compliance with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to reduce and abolish nuclear weapons by all nuclear-weapon States, especially in the United States. Physicians for Social Responsibility has spurred new humanitarian initiatives and is actively engaged in increasing the involvement of the American Red Cross and Rotary International in these initiatives.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Physicians for Social Responsibility participated in the following meetings of United Nations bodies, among others:

- The high-level meeting of the United Nations on nuclear disarmament, United Nations (New York, 26 September 2013)
- The second, third and fourth sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (28 February-4 March 2011, 11-15 July 2011 and 13-17 February 2012, respectively)
- The first and second United Nations Conferences on the Arms Trade Treaty (2-27 July 2012 and 18-28 March 2013, respectively) and the signing event on 3 June 2013

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Physicians for Social Responsibility participated in the sixty-third annual conference of the Department of Public Information for NGOs (Melbourne, Australia, 30 August to 1 September 2010), co-chaired the Expert Committee and prepared the meeting outcome document.

Physicians for Social Responsibility was a subcommittee member at the sixty-fourth annual conference of the Department of Public Information for NGOs (Bonn, Germany, 3-5 September 2011).

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

See above, under contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations.

8. Plan Sweden

Special, 2010

Introduction

Plan Sweden was founded in 1997 with the mandate to raise funds for development aid and humanitarian assistance for children's rights and well-being in developing countries. It currently implements country and regional projects in 20 countries (Cambodia, China, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Malawi, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Rwanda, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zambia) and carries out humanitarian interventions.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aim of Plan Sweden is to support the achievement of lasting improvements in the quality of life of children in developing countries. It accomplishes that through fundraising for child rights and well-being projects in developing countries, fostering relationships and partnerships, outreach and advocacy.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Plan Sweden contributed to the work of the United Nations in the following ways during the reporting period:

- It participated in the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, including by contributing to the Swedish position in the Third Committee and providing input to outcome documents.
- It assessed the extent to which disaster risk reduction and management aspects are covered in the monitoring cycle of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- It provided financial support to raise awareness of and build capacity for implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols and procedures among civil society organizations and children's groups. This included the development of child- and youth-friendly documents and tools.
- It supported the involvement of civil society organizations and children in the reporting process of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the universal periodic review.
- It contributed to the work of special procedures mandate holders, notably the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Plan Sweden representatives attended:

- High-level meetings of the General Assembly (New York, September 2013)
- The "Malala day" event at United Nations Headquarters on 12 July 2013
- The sixteenth and twenty-second sessions of the Human Rights Council (Geneva, 28 February to 25 March 2011 and 25 February to 22 March 2013, respectively)
- The fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 22 February to 4 March and 14 March 2011)

In addition, Plan Sweden financed the participation of civil society organizations at sessions and pre-sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Plan Sweden also contributed to several United Nations documents, including the conclusions and outcome of the Commission on the Status of Women between 2010 and 2013; the 2013 report of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network on post-2015 processes, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the report and resolutions of the Human Rights Council ensuing from its twenty-second session in 2013.

The organization submitted a written statement to the Commission on the Status of Women and organized a side event at its session in 2011, as well as a written document on adolescent sexual and reproductive health for the twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Plan Sweden cooperates directly and indirectly (through funding) with a number of United Nations bodies, including through:

- Facilitating a meeting between the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and civil society organizations at the Third Global Conference on Child Labour, in Brasilia, in October 2013, and, in collaboration with UNICEF, a meeting among the Special Representative, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden and Swedish International Development Agency on child protection issues in the post-2015 agenda
- Supporting research on bullying, in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Thailand, targeting secondary school students who are known to be, or perceived to be, transgender or gay
- Leading the process to develop a successor to the Hyogo Framework for Action with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
- Deploying a specialist on child protection in emergencies to support the response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, from November 2013 to April 2014, in collaboration with UNICEF and UNFPA

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

During the reporting period, the organization contributed to Millennium Development Goals 2, 4, 5 and 7 through its Swedish governmental funds and its child-centred disaster risk reduction work. The organization also lobbied to influence the Swedish position in the post-2015 negotiations.

9. Presbyterian Church USA

Special, 1998

Introduction

Presbyterian Church USA has 1.8 million members and over 10,000 congregations in the United States. Its work has had an international focus for more than 175 years. The Church continues that work today through a growing network of global partnerships focusing on critical global initiatives, reconciliation, evangelism and poverty alleviation. It works in the area of gender, peacebuilding, child advocacy, hunger and disaster relief and environmental justice.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Presbyterian Church USA engages in international humanitarian outreach, including disaster assistance, hunger and poverty alleviation, peace education and peacebuilding, and support for the self-development of peoples. It is a strong

advocate for the United Nations and supports the Organization's work in education, conflict prevention through community-based peace and reconciliation activities, as well as its efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, reduce cultures of violence, end human trafficking in all its forms, promote human rights for all, especially for women and children, protect religious freedom, protect the environment and promote programmes for sustainable development, preventive health care and basic education.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Presbyterian Church USA contributes to the work of the United Nations through its initiatives on poverty and hunger alleviation, humanitarian assistance, gender justice, social development, peace and reconciliation and work with children and youth. It works through international partnerships around the world to address these and other issues.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Presbyterian Church USA participated in the following meetings, among others:

- 2010: fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (1-12 March) and informal interactive hearings of the General Assembly with NGOs, civil society organizations and the private sector (14-15 June)
- 2011: fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (22 February-4 March), tenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (16-27 May), informal thematic debate on international migration and development (19 May), High-level Meeting on Youth (25-26 July) and fourth session on the Conference of States Parties (7-9 September)
- 2012: fiftieth session of the Commission for Social Development (1-10 February), fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (27 February-9 March), where Presbyterian Church USA submitted a written statement and sponsored a parallel event, eleventh session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (7-18 May), United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (2-27 July) and third session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing (21-24 August)
- 2013: fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development (6-15 February), fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (4-15 March), where it submitted a written statement and hosted a side event with the Permanent Mission of Botswana, twelfth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (20-31 May), meeting of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda on the report presentation (31 May) and high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals for persons with disability (23 September)

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Presbyterian Church USA offers an educational seminar at its New York office. The following United Nations programmes, agencies and departments have either presented or participated in that seminar: the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UNAIDS, OHCHR, the Department of Political Affairs, UNEP, UNICEF, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict.

Presbyterian Church USA is also an active member of the NGO working group on the Security Council, where it regularly engages with members of the Council as well as relevant United Nations agencies.

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

Presbyterian Church USA and its global, faith-based, development partners have been engaged in providing education, health and social services for nearly two centuries. From 2010 to 2013, increased efforts have been made to address the underlying causes of hunger and malnutrition, diseases caused by poverty, gender empowerment and growing inequity in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean.

10. Rainforest Foundation

Special, 2002

Introduction

Rainforest Foundation of the United Kingdom works to support indigenous peoples and traditional populations of the world's rainforest in their efforts to protect their environment and fulfil their rights to land, life and livelihood. Globally, there are millions of people living in rainforests whose livelihoods and cultures depend on their natural environment. In many cases, the basic rights of these people are threatened or undermined by forest destruction, land theft and resource exploitation. The Foundation is working to ensure the long-term protection of rainforests by securing the rights of indigenous communities to land, life and livelihoods.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The mission of Rainforest Foundation is to support indigenous peoples and traditional populations of the world's rainforests in their efforts to protect their environment and fulfil their rights to land, life and livelihood by assisting them in: securing and controlling the natural resources necessary for their long-term well-being and managing these resources in ways that do not harm their environment, violate their culture or compromise their future; and developing the means to protect

their individual and collective rights and obtain, shape and control basic services from the State.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Rainforest Foundation's achievements over the past four years include:

- In the Central African Republic, the Foundation and its partner, La Maison de l'Enfant et de la Femme Pygmées, played a central role in the process leading to the ratification by the Government of ILO convention No. 169 on indigenous rights.
- In the Congo, the Foundation and local NGOs developed a process through consultations with indigenous peoples to enable the adoption of a national law for the protection and promotion of indigenous people's rights.
- Rainforest Foundation supported partners in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to participate more effectively in national processes of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries and to advocate proper respect of forest communities' rights.
- Rainforest Foundation is supporting forest communities in the Congo Basin in participatory mapping of over 5 million hectares of ancestral rainforest lands, working with more than 1,000 forest villages.
- The Foundation supported indigenous leaders in Peru to halt the revision of national laws on communal reserves in July 2013.
- In the Central African Republic, the Foundation helped to devise a legal road map for how the Government could fulfil its responsibilities to indigenous people under international law.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

- 2010: Rainforest Foundation attended the ninth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (New York, 19-30 April). In collaboration with northern and southern NGOs, the Foundation organized a side event on hydroelectric dams and the rights of indigenous peoples on 27 April.
- 2010: the Foundation attended the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Cancún, Mexico, 29 November-10 December).
- 2011: the Foundation attended the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Durban, South Africa, 28 November-9 December).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Rainforest Foundation participated in a joint mission of the World Bank and the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from

Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries to the Democratic Republic of the Congo in February 2010 to finalize the country's project proposal.

In collaboration with ILO, Rainforest Foundation contributed to the implementation of its programme to promote convention No. 169 in the Central African Republic.

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

Rainforest Foundation contributed to Millennium Development Goal 1 by supporting the Asháninka communities in the Peruvian Amazon with training in cocoa growing and harvesting techniques, marketing and financial management to help to improve their livelihoods and successfully market cocoa under the organic and fair trade certifications in Peru and Europe. With support from the Foundation, the cocoa production of the association Kemito Ene increased from 1.4 tons in 2009 to 15 tons in 2012.

Rainforest Foundation implemented large projects to undertake participatory mapping of indigenous peoples' and other forest communities' lands in order to improve the legal protection of their lands and resources in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 2013, the Foundation worked with over 100 villages (with a total population of more than 200,000 people) to map their lands over 500,000 hectares through the training of more than 1,000 community mappers. The participatory maps have been used in a number of ways to advocate changes to the law in order to improve the protection of communities' land and resource rights and to promote sustainable resource management.

Rainforest Foundation has contributed to Millennium Development Goal 7 through the implementation of the following projects:

- Strengthening the conservation of tropical forests by respecting the rights of indigenous peoples to participate in their management
- Contributing to poverty reduction, sustainable management and improved governance of tropical rainforests in the Congo Basin through documenting forest communities' land tenure and governance systems and promoting and implementing forest communities' rights to land and forest resources
- Supporting local NGOs in the Central African Republic and Gabon to understand, analyse and use national laws related to forest management, land and resource rights, human rights and indigenous peoples' rights, and to independently pursue legal strategies to defend community rights

11. Real Women of Canada

Special, 1998

Introduction

Real Women of Canada has worked to improve the status of women and their families and to promote their human rights, both in Canada and internationally. It has organized and attended workshops at NGO forums held in connection with United Nations conferences. In Canada, the organization has promoted the

implementation of United Nations treaties, including the treaties on drugs, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Real Women of Canada promotes the equality and well-being of Canadian women and their families in the home, the workplace and in retirement. It is a human rights organization whose work includes lobbying Members of Parliament and appearing before government committees and intervening in court actions on behalf of women and their families. It also promotes these views in the print and broadcast media in Canada. The organization's geographical membership consists of mostly Canadian residents, with a few exceptions, and it works within Canada.

Significant changes in the organization

Pursuant to the new federal legislation, Real Women of Canada was required to incorporate under a new act, the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act. Real Women of Canada was granted a certificate of continuance dated 9 October 2013 under the new legislation. The Act required new by-laws, which were approved by the organization's directors on 31 May 2013 and by the members at their annual and special meeting on 9 May 2014, and accepted by the federal Government.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2009, the organization presented a brief to the Standing Senate Committee on Bill C-25 which increased penalties for marijuana cultivation and provided minimum sentences for drug possession. The organization was an intervener in the legal challenge of the prostitution law in both the Ontario Court of Appeal (2011) and the Supreme Court of Canada in 2013 in accordance with article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The organization also intervened in the Supreme Court of Canada case on a drug injection site in Vancouver. The organization lobbied the Government of Canada to strengthen legislation against child prostitution and trafficking for sexual purposes in accordance with article 34, paragraphs (a) and (b), of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization has participated in the following meetings:

- The fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 1-12 March 2010)
- The fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 22 February-4 March 2011)
- The fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 27 February-9 March 2012)
- The forty-fifth session of the Commission on Population and Development (New York, 23-27 April 2012)
- The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012)

- The fifty-second session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (New York, 9-27 July 2012)
- The fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, 4-15 March 2013)
- The fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (Vienna, 11-15 March 2013)

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

No cooperation was specified.

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

The organization lobbied the Government of Canada to contribute to the maternal and health-care initiative for child-related Millennium Development Goals. The organization also wrote to national leaders and foreign ministers to encourage participation in this undertaking.

12. Rissho Kosei-kai

Special, 2010

Introduction

Rissho Kosei-kai is a global Buddhist movement composed of people who strive to enrich their spirituality by applying the Buddha's teachings in their daily lives. The movement was founded by the late Nikkyo Niwano and Myoko Naganuma in 1938, guided by the teachings of the Lotus Sutra in which the innermost spirit of Shakyamuni Buddha is incorporated. It has about 1.3 million member households in 238 dharma centres throughout Japan, as well as 67 dharma centres in 21 overseas locations, such as in Brazil, India, Sri Lanka and the United States, among others. Its peace-promoting activities are based on the teachings in its basic scripture, the Lotus Sutra, which states that truth is universal and all religions are manifestations of that truth, and thus all people are related and belong to one family.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The spiritual aim of Rissho Kosei-kai members is to become bodhisattvas (people who seek enlightenment both for themselves and others) and to bring peace to families, communities, countries and the world. The organization's members believe that true peace in society can come only through cooperation among religions, organized groups and individuals around the world. They are dedicated to working for a world in which people of all persuasions will be linked by bonds of friendship.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The “Donate-a-meal movement” was launched in 1974. The organization’s members who participate in the movement forgo a meal per day several times a month and contribute the money thus saved to the “Donate-a-meal fund for peace” through their local dharma centre. Through another campaign, members of the organization have also collected 136,240 blankets throughout Japan in the past four years for sending to people in need in Africa.

The “Dream bag project” consists of distributing bags of stationery items, toys and messages of friendship to children who have suffered in situations of conflict. About 111,752 bags were distributed in Israel, Lebanon, the Philippines and the State of Palestine between 2010 and 2013.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Rissho Kosei-kai attended the following meetings:

- 2010: 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (New York, 3-28 May)
- 2011: sixty-fourth annual conference of the Department of Public Information for NGOs (Bonn, Germany, 3-5 September)
- 2012: fiftieth session of the Commission for Social Development (New York, 1-10 February)
- 2013: fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development (New York, 6-15 February), second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Geneva, 22 April-3 May) and general debate of the General Assembly (New York, 24 September-1 October)

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Between 2010 and 2013, Rissho Kosei-kai made financial contributions to the following United Nations bodies:

- \$184,000 to UNICEF through “Donate-a-meal fund for peace”
- \$396,000 to WFP
- \$247,500 to UNHCR
- \$1,000,000 to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific to finance the peace and disarmament education pilot programme for children in Nepal

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

The organization has contributed to Millennium Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 6 and 7 by supporting WFP school feeding programmes in many countries. In Bhutan, it provided daily meals to 36,218 children in 227 schools. In Malawi, the project reduced the morbidity and mortality of the population living with HIV and helped to respond to HIV and AIDS. In Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and

South Africa, it helped to improve livelihoods through ecological agriculture, which also contributed to environmental sustainability.

13. Saint Petersburg Institute of Bioregulation and Gerontology of the North-Western Branch of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences

Special, 2010

Introduction

Saint Petersburg Institute of Bioregulation and Gerontology of the North-Western Branch of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences focuses on fundamental studies, the development of research and applied programmes in bioregulation and gerontology, the clinical study of and introduction into clinical practice of peptide geroprotectors, state-of-the-art diagnostic technologies and therapy for the prevention and treatment of age-related pathologies, as well as on promoting healthy ageing, improving working capacity and well-being, and enhancing human vitality. It distributes research findings in the field of bioregulation and gerontology, the demography of ageing and other issues by organizing scientific conferences and publishing scientific and research papers.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Institute focuses on raising awareness among professionals worldwide of issues related to healthy ageing and on developing scientific and applied programmes for the prevention of premature ageing and age-related pathologies, inventing new remedies to promote human longevity and exploring the demographic aspects of population ageing. One of the main objectives of the Institute is to maintain cooperation among researchers, professionals in gerontology and geriatrics and decision makers in the Russian Federation and all over the world.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Institute undertakes to facilitate the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing at the national and regional levels through programmes and projects aimed at healthy and active ageing. During the reporting period, it organized over 20 scientific events, congresses and conferences, including a special session on the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing within the framework of the senior generation forum in Saint Petersburg, Russian Federation.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Institute participated in the Ministerial Conference on Ageing of the Economic Commission for Europe (Vienna, 19-20 September 2012) and made a presentation on priority directions of research on ageing in Europe. The Institute also submitted a written statement on bridging the gap between research and policymaking at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council held in Geneva from 1 to 26 July 2013.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In cooperation with the International Institute on Ageing and the United Nations, the Institute organized international educational programmes in gerontology and geriatrics aimed at specialists in the field of ageing and tailored to meet the needs of developing countries in various areas related to population ageing.

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

In collaboration with the government of Saint Petersburg, the Institute organizes “senior generation” forums every year. The project is aimed at the social adaptation, support and health improvement of the elderly in modern society. In addition, this event, which is the largest non-commercial social event in the Russian Federation, comprises lectures, round tables, seminars, site visits to local facilities for older people, various courses for older people, including online computer courses, employment opportunities and specialized exhibitions.

14. Samaj Kalyan O. Unnayan Shangstha

Special, 2010

Introduction

Samaj Kalyan O. Unnayan Shangstha works to improve the socioeconomic condition of poor and marginalized people. The organization works in education, health and nutrition, women’s rights and good governance, skills development, vocational training, water and sanitation, emergency relief, rehabilitation, livelihood support and environmental conservation in Bangladesh.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The main aim of Samaj Kalyan O. Unnayan Shangstha is to empower poor and vulnerable people, especially poor women, by making them capable and self-sufficient. To achieve its goals, the organization focuses on: women’s development, gender issues, human rights and good governance; formal and non-formal education; health, nutrition and family planning; the prevention of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections, malaria and other infectious diseases; livelihood skills and vocational training; health, hygiene and sanitation; environmental conservation through social forestry, biodiversity and awareness-raising; emergency relief, rehabilitation and early recovery support programmes.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization affiliated with its sister concern, Samaj Kalyan O. Unnayan Shangstha Technical Training Centre, with the approval of the Bangladesh Technical Education Board, in order to provide vocational training to poor and vulnerable groups in Bangladesh.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization contributes to the work of the United Nations through its development work. It collaborates with UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA on various social issues.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

- Samaj Kalyan O. Unnayan Shangstha had registered for the high-level meeting of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly held on 24 September 2012 and the sixty-third annual conference of the Department of Public Information for NGOs (30 August-1 September 2010). However, owing to visa problems, it was not able to participate.
- The organization submitted a written statement to the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council focusing on the implementation of the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education (July 2011).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Samaj Kalyan O. Unnayan Shangstha implemented three projects with financial support from UNDP to provide livelihood recovery support for flood and landslide, tornado-affected communities in Bangladesh, which reached 12,000 beneficiaries directly and 450,650 beneficiaries indirectly.

The organization implemented a project with the technical and financial assistance of UNICEF on livelihood skills training for working children, which assisted 17,000 children during the reporting period.

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

In support of Millennium Development Goal 1, Samaj Kalyan O. Unnayan Shangstha provided services for the WFP Vulnerable Group Development programme, the WFP Vulnerable Group Feeding programme, the food and cash for work programme, the cash grant programme, a livelihood training programme and a vocational training programme, which reached 75,000 people during the reporting period.

In support of Millennium Development Goal 2, the organization implemented projects on non-formal education, reducing the primary school drop-out rate and providing services to 250,500 children during the reporting period.

In support of Millennium Development Goal 3, the organization implemented a women's development and empowerment project, teaching life skills, providing livelihood training, raising awareness of gender-based violence and promoting education for adolescents and adults for 130,500 beneficiaries.

In support of Millennium Development Goal 4, the organization provided various nutrition-awareness campaigns in schools and colleges through folk songs, workshops, seminars and community meetings, reaching 135,625 children. The organization is also a member of the Civil Society Alliance for Scaling Up Nutrition in Bangladesh.

In support of Millennium Development Goal 5, the organization provided training on health care, reproductive health, safe motherhood, safe delivery, pregnant mother care, maternity health care and maternity allowance, reaching 80,500 women.

In support of Millennium Development Goal 6, the organization implemented a project on malaria control and HIV/AIDS prevention for workers in the garment sector and young people, reaching 345,500 people. The organization also observes World AIDS Day and World Malaria Day.

In support of Millennium Development Goal 7, the organization implements projects on safe water and sanitation, tree planting, arsenic mitigation and biodiversity, among others, reaching about 175,500 beneficiaries.

15. School Sisters of Notre Dame

Special, 1998

Introduction

School Sisters of Notre Dame is an international organization that is present in 32 countries and has 2,918 members, 560 of whom are involved in providing formal education and 80 in non-formal education and social services.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The primary mission of School Sisters of Notre Dame is to transform the world through education that enables people to reach the fullness of their potential. Although no one is excluded from its efforts, the organization is especially responsive to women, youth and those living in poverty.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In addition to being involved in formal education in kindergarten, primary and secondary schools and universities, School Sisters of Notre Dame is involved in providing non-formal education and social service programmes, including literacy training, employment services, assistance with housing, advocacy and counselling. In several countries, the organization is involved in efforts against human trafficking. It has disseminated information about the work of the United Nations in Brazil, the Gambia, Hungary, Italy, Nigeria and Poland, as well as several locations in the United States, with particular focus on the Millennium Development Goals and the efforts under way to develop sustainable development goals.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

School Sisters of Notre Dame regularly welcomes members, colleagues and students from around the world to prepare them to participate in various United Nations meetings and events and helps them to learn more about the United Nations. Delegations participated in several events at United Nations Headquarters in New York, including those related to the Commission on the Status of Women, the

Commission for Social Development, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the World Interfaith Harmony Week, the Commission on Sustainable Development and the special event to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals held on 25 September 2013.

School Sisters of Notre Dame co-sponsored a written intervention at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (22 February-4 March 2011), in which it advocated full access to education, training, science and technology for girls.

The organization attended the sixty-fourth annual conference of the Department of Public Information for NGOs on “Sustainable societies; responsive citizens” (Bonn, Germany, 3-5 September 2011). School Sisters of Notre Dame also attended the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

School Sisters of Notre Dame has been active in the annual Civil Society Forum, a joint effort of the Division for Social Policy and Development, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung organization and the NGO Committee on Social Development, prior to sessions of the Commission for Social Development. It has also been involved in providing orientation to NGO representatives attending sessions of the Commission for the first time.

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

Millennium Development Goal 2 is the focus of much of the activity of School Sisters of Notre Dame throughout the world. School Sisters of Notre Dame universities in the United States and Japan provide teacher training, kindergartens and primary schools and contribute to the goal of universal primary education.

The organization contributes towards the realization of Millennium Development Goal 3 through literacy training and other non-formal education projects aimed at empowering women, as well as through its efforts to provide secondary education to girls in many countries.

The realization of Millennium Development Goals 1, 4, 5 and 6 are supported and enhanced through the educational efforts of School Sisters of Notre Dame.