



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
18 August 2017
English
Original: French

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

2018 regular session

29 January–7 February and 23 February 2018

Quadrennial reports for the period 2013–2016 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. Association togolaise d'étude, de recherche et d'appui au développement humain durable . . .	2
2. Autre vie	3
3. Benin Environment and Education Society	5
4. Carré géo et environnement	6
5. Centre africain de recherche industrielle	8
6. Centre national d'information sur les droits des femmes et des familles	9
7. Centres d'accueil de l'espoir	11
8. Comité français des organisations non gouvernementales pour la liaison et l'information des Nations Unies	13
9. Fédération européenne des centres de recherche et d'information sur le sectarisme	15
10. Femmes autochtones du Québec	16
11. Fondation pour la promotion de la santé et le développement de la recherche	17
12. Fondation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international	19
13. Fondation Surgir	21
14. Genève pour les droits de l'homme: formation internationale	22
15. Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding	23

* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.



1. Association togolaise d'étude, de recherche et d'appui au développement humain durable

Special, 2013

Introduction

In August 2013, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations conferred special consultative status on the non-governmental organization (NGO) Association togolaise d'étude, de recherche et d'appui au développement humain durable.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aim of the organization is to promote sustainable human development with a view to reducing poverty in order to improve people's socioeconomic and cultural living conditions while respecting the environment. Its aims and purposes include building the capacities of its members and local communities; ensuring environmental protection and climate change mitigation and adaptation; protecting the gene pool; providing sanitation and safe drinking water; combating desertification, conserving biodiversity and promoting renewable energy; providing training, education, culture, sports and recreation; ensuring schooling for girls in difficult situations and for children in need and at risk of HIV/AIDS; providing assistance for older persons; promoting women's self-empowerment; developing new information and communication technologies; promoting cultural exchanges among young people, volunteering and internships; ensuring local production, processing, conservation and consumption, and the marketing of local organic agricultural products; combating sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, and opportunistic diseases, and promoting immunization; ensuring local democracy and good governance; and protecting human rights, especially women's rights.

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 served as a bridge between local populations and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and now the Sustainable Development Goals, by sharing with its target populations the information that it receives, including the 2014 Human Development Report of the United Nations "Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience" and the Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, which focuses on experiences, data on efforts taken to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and new progress. The organization has reported on the Economic Report on Africa 2016: Greening Africa's Industrialization, published by the Economic Commission for Africa. The NGO is working on the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2016.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The NGO is the focal point for the human rights organizations that work with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

It liaises with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Global Environment Facility. The NGO also has a relationship with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, through its membership of the AIDS platform for civil society organizations of the Plateaux region.

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

In 2012–2014, the organization carried out a project in the canton of Lavié (Kloto Prefecture, Plateaux Region of Togo) called “Adaptation of the agricultural production systems of Lavié Huimé Canton to climate change-related phenomena”, with funding from the microfinancing programme of the Global Environment Facility. With financial support from its branch based in France, the NGO supported the schooling of 45 pupils from 2013 to 2016. The organization acts as a human rights organization and, in that capacity, participates in elections as an observer on behalf of OHCHR. It also carries out awareness-raising activities in the context of mainstreaming AIDS awareness. The organization trains groups of women in income-generating activities in Tové, Lavié, Kussuntu and Tsamé (Kloto Prefecture).

2. Autre vie

Special, 2013

Introduction

Autre vie is a national development organization established under Beninese law, which has a framework agreement with the Republic of Benin. It aims to take action whenever and wherever the dignity, integrity, or physical and mental well-being of children, young persons and women are threatened. Since 1996, Autre vie has been carrying out activities in support of communities afflicted by poverty, insecurity, discrimination or exclusion.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Autre vie aims to contribute to local, national, regional and international development goals that help girls, women, children, adolescents and young people to thrive, earn a living and enjoy rights, independence and respect in a developed and secure environment. Autre vie has targeted six areas of activity as programmatic priorities: community health, water, hygiene and sanitation; human rights and protection; climate change and food security; education and literacy; community empowerment and development of local economies; and capacity-building.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Autre vie has contributed to the work of the United Nations by implementing the following projects:

- The “Ecotous” (School for All) project, which has facilitated access to a quality education for 2,300 children in Benin;
- An adult literacy and education project, which has helped 2,800 women and men aged 14–45 to become literate in the national language;

- An initiative to promote the reproductive health of young people and adolescents, and includes family planning, has impacted 3,070 women, and 370 new requests for assistance under the initiative have been granted;
- The establishment of 34 citizen Committees of Women for Public Action and the capacity-building of 374 women members of civil society organizations in the area of female leadership;
- Support for the promotion of maternal and child health and good nutrition, which has improved the nutrition of 6,125 children aged 0 to 59 months;
- The promotion of latrines made from local materials to improve basic hygiene and sanitation in 131 rural communities, with the support of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF);
- The observance of World Hepatitis Day on 28 July in 2015 and 2016, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) in Benin;
- The implementation of a project to support the development of the local economy, since 2014;
- Support for an initiative to reforest lagoon banks, carried out with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Benin, under which nearly 18 hectares have been reforested;
- The promotion of community vegetable gardens and livestock-raising with a view to improving the nutritional security of children aged 0 to 59 months;
- Contribution to the promotion of energy saving light bulbs and the promotion of clean energy sources for cooking, through the invention of Mivo solar cookers for cooking, with support from UNDP;
- The development of a campaign against violence to women and girls; and
- The establishment of the honorary title of Defender of the Rights of Children and Women in Africa, through the “Glass Trophies” initiative.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The organization has implemented the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach for the promotion of basic hygiene and sanitation in 150 towns in the commune of Kandi in Benin, with UNICEF. It has signed a memorandum with UNICEF to contribute to the implementation of its 2014–2018 country programme for Benin. It has signed a memorandum with UNDP concerning the implementation of initiatives for the safeguarding and protection of biodiversity, and adaptation to climate change. It has cooperated with UNDP to implement a project for the reforestation of lagoon banks in Benin, in the communes of Akpro-Misséréké and Dangbo.

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

Autre vie has contributed to Millennium Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 through the programmes and project initiatives cited in this report.

3. Benin Environment and Education Society

Special, 2013

Introduction

Benin Environment and Education Society (BEES) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) established under Beninese law that is concerned with the environment and sustainable development. It is involved in the protection and integrated management of natural resources and in mainstreaming climate change into development policies and programmes in Benin in particular, and in Africa more generally.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aim of BEES is to promote sustainable development by protecting and conserving biodiversity for the well-being of local populations, through financially sustainable and environmentally and culturally responsible actions. The methodology employed by BEES to achieve its goals includes carrying out actions in support of the sustainable management of natural resources, including water, forest resources and the resources of other fragile ecosystems; promoting education, disseminating information and raising awareness about wetlands, with a view to their conservation and community use, inter alia through actions designed to raise the awareness of the general public, through classroom exercises and through the dissemination of educational tools; promoting ecotourism as a means of nature conservation and an alternative to the overexploitation of natural resources; contributing to the social and economic development of local communities; and mobilizing financial resources to support studies and activities in order to improve the dissemination of scientific understanding of the wetlands of Benin.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

BEES has undertaken several projects to support the social well-being and integrated sustainable development of communities, including:

- The preservation and promotion of waterbirds and their habitats at Ramsar site No.1018;
- Support for local development and protection of the environment in the Lac Nokoué region, through ecotourism;
- Mainstreaming ecosystem-based adaptation into the development planning of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and
- Corporate social and environmental responsibility in Benin in a time of climate change.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

From 10–14 February 2013, in Nairobi, Kenya, TUNZA of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), brought together over 300 young persons from 100 countries (with Benin represented by BEES) in order to exchange information and to network on the theme “Youth for sustainable development”. BEES played an active part in defining the contribution of Benin throughout the preparations for the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21). As a result, the organization formed part of the Beninese delegation to COP 21, which was held in Paris, France, from 30 November to 11 December 2015. It also attended COP 22, held in Marrakech, Morocco, in November 2016, where it defended the position of Africa alongside other delegations. BEES has also been accredited by the Green Climate Fund since October 2015.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

Collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) led to the establishment in 2014 of a platform of NGOs networks working on environmental issues (ProEnvironment), chaired by BEES. Cooperation between ProEnvironment and UNDP made it possible to organize the Third West African Organic Agriculture Conference on “Institutionalizing ecological and organic agriculture in West Africa in the context of climate change”, held from 26 to 29 August 2014.

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

BEES has supported the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Benin, including Goal 7, through the “100 million trees” initiative of the Environment Online programme, under which 60 hectares of mangrove forest in Benin have been restored. Also in the context of achieving Goal 7, BEES has led advocacy efforts for the effective integration of ecosystem-based adaptation into the policies and programmes of ECOWAS countries.

4. Carré géo et environnement

Special, 2013

Introduction

Created in 2004 by students of the University of Yaoundé I in Cameroon and incorporated in 2009, Carré géo et environnement is an environmental organization that works on climate change issues. Its mission is to contribute towards better understanding and effective prevention of phenomena that have an impact on the fundamental equilibrium of the planet.

Aims and purposes of the organization

More specifically, Carré géo et environnement conducts activities at the local, national and international levels with the aim of contributing towards greater awareness of climate change when identifying and addressing development challenges.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In May 2013, the organization contributed to the development and adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the drafting of Sustainable Development Goal 13. The organization worked on drafting the climate-related recommendation as part of the post-2015 national consultations that took place in Cameroon.

In 2015, it contributed to the preparations for and success of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 21), including by organizing a training workshop from 2 to 4 September for elected officials in Douala on local ownership of Cameroon's intended nationally determined contribution. The organization also participated in developing recommendations from African civil society that were presented to French elected officials at a meeting held on 17 April 2015 at the French National Assembly. Carré géo et environnement took part in promoting COP 21, recommending that it serve as an opportunity to deepen discussions on the concept of climate refugees, particularly at international civil society meetings held on 13 and 14 June 2015 and from 2 to 4 October in France. Furthermore, from 30 November to 12 December 2015, the organization set up and ran a booth in the green zone at COP 21. At COP 22, it set up two booths (one in the blue zone and one in the green zone), where it presented global warming solutions to the public, and it also organized a side event entitled "Mitigating the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations and eliminating racial discrimination in projects and programmes related to renewable energy in Africa".

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Carré géo et environnement has participated in the following meetings:

- A national workshop on the national consultations regarding the post-2015 development agenda in Cameroon, entitled "The Future We Want", Yaoundé, Cameroon, 28 and 29 April 2013;
- The nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Warsaw, Poland, 30 November to 13 December 2013;
- The Bonn Climate Change Conference, Bonn, Germany, 19 to 23 October 2015;
- The twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Paris, France, 30 November to 12 December 2015;
- The Bonn Climate Change Conference, Bonn, Germany, 16 to 26 May 2016;
- The Expert Meeting on Climate Change and Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland, 6 and 7 October 2016; and
- The twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Marrakech, Morocco, 7 to 18 November 2016.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

No contribution was specified.

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

In 2013, in furtherance of Goal 13, Carré géo et environnement began to advocate for climate change to be mainstreamed into the community development plans of Cameroon. The purpose was to mainstream climate constraints into development policies. This led to the drafting of a publication used as a guide for incorporating climate issues in community development plans. In accordance with Goal 7, the organization has been carrying out activities since May 2014 for the adoption and implementation of a specific law on renewable energy in Cameroon.

These efforts aim to substantially increase renewable energy in Cameroon. In November 2014 this led to the adoption of a preliminary draft law on the promotion and development of renewable energy in Cameroon which has been used as a reference for the preparation of Cameroon's intended nationally determined contribution. This work is also relevant to Goal 8, as local community involvement in disseminating renewable energy would curb youth unemployment and poverty in Cameroon.

5. Centre africain de recherche industrielle

Special, 2001

Introduction

The Centre africain de recherche industrielle (CARI) is a learned society specialized in the application of science and technology to development issues. Its mission is to promote scientific and doctrinal thought in order to inform and guide the actions of development agents towards progress. The findings of research conducted by the Centre may be read in both scientific publications and those intended for anyone concerned with development problems.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The purpose of CARI is to guide the actions of development agents towards progress. The purpose is development through the implementation of healthy development projects. The main activity is research and the publication of research findings. Other cross-cutting activities include training and capacity-building.

Significant changes in the organization

The Centre africain de recherche industrielle became the Centre africain de recherche interdisciplinaire, retaining the same abbreviation CARI. The Centre has expanded its research areas beyond industry to include social, political and economic issues; the emergence of environmental issues; climate change; and sustainable development issues. Through this report, the Centre requests reclassification to general status owing to its many contributions to the work of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

CARI has contributed through the following activities:

- Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (Human Rights Council);
- The negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation through the Human Rights Council;
- Written communication on the theme “Strengthening the demographic evidence base for the post-2015 development agenda” at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Population and Development, 11–15 April 2016, New York, United States;
- Written communication on the theme “Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world” at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission for Social Development in 2016;

- Study on financing investment for sustainable development, commissioned by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD);
- The management of the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council;
- Replies to the questionnaire on critical milestones towards a coherent, efficient, and inclusive follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level;
- Interaction between civil society and multilateral institutions;
- Contemporary forms of debt bondage, submitted to the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery (Human Rights Council);
- Written communication at the sixteenth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration under the sub-item entitled “Ensuring effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: leadership, actions and means: Understanding the needs of local authorities and communities and supporting and equipping them for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”; and
- Written communication at the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Social Development on the theme “Strategies for eradicating poverty to achieve sustainable development for all”.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women organized by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), 14 to 24 March 2016, on the theme “Women’s empowerment and the link to sustainable development”.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

No cooperation was specified.

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

No activities were specified.

6. Centre national d’information sur les droits des femmes et des familles

Special, 2009

Introduction

The Centre national d’information sur les droits des femmes et des familles (CNIDFF) was founded in 1972 at the initiative of the French State.

Aims and purposes of the organization

CNIDFF is an essential intermediary for action by Government authorities regarding access to rights for women in combating sexist discrimination and promoting equality between women and men.

Significant changes in the organization

The Centre adopted new statutes in June 2016 and became the Fédération nationale des Centres d'information sur les Droits des Femmes et des Familles.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2013, the NGO organized conferences on gender, precariousness and solidarity, for the network of Women's and Families' Rights Information Centres. The issue of the women's precariousness provided an opportunity to analyse the solidarity actions provided by the Government, associations and women themselves. It organized a seminar as part of a European project called Stop V.i.E.W (Stop Violence against Elderly Women). The objective was to raise public awareness of violence against older women. It brought together six countries: Italy, Spain, Portugal, Bulgaria, Slovenia and France.

CNIDFF organized a press conference for six national organizations working in the field of violence against women. The aim was to denounce and raise awareness of the specific forms of violence experienced by migrant women: sexual mutilation, polygamy, forced marriage, honour crimes and prostitution.

In 2014, the NGO signed seven commitments supporting female entrepreneurship, in order to publicize the network of Women's and Families' Rights Information Centres as resource centres for women facing barriers to employment or business creation. It hosted foreign delegations on combating violence against women (Paraguay, Morocco and the Central African Republic); on the evolution of women's rights (Qatar); and on women's advancement and gender promotion (Burkina Faso and Tunisia).

In 2015, the organization held seminars on gender equality in the workplace and parenting support. It has created new communication tools under the plan to combat harassment, violence and sexual abuse adopted by the French Ministry of Defence; on equal rights for men and women in France; on access to rights for newly arrived women; and on promotion and support for employment and occupational equality. It hosted a delegation from China (Guangzhou), the Association for the Defence of the Rights of Tanzanian Women and a delegation from the Office of the President of the Gabonese Republic. Lastly, it conducted a hearing on the assessment of the fourth interministerial programme for combating violence against women (2014–2016).

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

CNIDFF has participated in the following meetings:

- The fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women;
- The fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women;
- The fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The organization attended the following meetings: Commission on the Status of Women: sexuality and education; women and extremism in the name of God; and unlimited potential: business partners for gender equality, organized by Women's Empowerment Principles; violence against women and girls online; gender inequality and climate change: how to tackle a double injustice; and results of the Commission on the Status of Women;
- The sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, at which it presented the Centre's commitments in the area of gender-based violence in the presence of the Minister of Families and Women's Rights and participated

in the event organized by “Regards de femmes” on birth registration: a prerequisite for women’s empowerment, and in “Refugees and displaced people, victims of terrorist groups: women and girls exposed to a continuum of sexual violence and exploitation”.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

No cooperation was specified.

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

CNIDFF supports the Millennium Development Goals through awareness-raising, mobilization and the promotion of gender equality across all areas involving the network of Women’s and Families’ Rights Information Centres: access to rights; combating violence against women; employment and business generation; family life and parenthood; health; and education and citizenship. In this context, public requests for information (especially from women) are constantly increasing: there were 918,882 such requests in 2013, compared with 940,291 in 2016. The number of women victims of violence receiving shelter has also increased from 48,251 in 2013 to 60,167 in 2016.

7. Centres d’accueil de l’espoir

Special, 2009

Introduction

Centres d’accueil de l’espoir has been operating for 27 years and was the first association in Cameroon to be granted NGO status on 8 July 2003. It was granted status as a recognized public utility association on 23 March 2006 and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council on 7 August 2009. The organization’s main areas of work are the prevention of sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS, the promotion of family planning, mentoring for orphans with AIDS and vulnerable children, and the eradication of poverty.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The association aims to provide upstream mentoring, social reintegration and socio-professional integration for orphans with AIDS and vulnerable children; to proactively educate and raise the awareness of vulnerable populations in poor communities about the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and opportunistic diseases linked to HIV/AIDS; to make family planning accessible; and, since 2012, to promote the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

Its operational objectives are focused on six key areas: mentoring orphans with AIDS and vulnerable children in the temporary accommodation centre in Efulan, in host families and in their families of origin; ensuring the social reintegration and socio-professional integration of orphans with AIDS and vulnerable children; making family planning accessible in order to address poverty; engaging poor communities in order to prevent sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and opportunistic diseases; preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV; and ensuring the socioeconomic empowerment of orphans with AIDS and vulnerable children and their families.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The association is regularly invited to share its experience in meetings organized by the Government. For instance, at the invitation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (United Nations and Decentralized Cooperation Department), the association took part in the inaugural meeting on the activities of the collaborative platform between the Ministry and civil society on 27 February 2017. Its aims included effectively monitoring the activities of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations, and facilitating the involvement and actions of associations in their role as consultative members of the international community, according to the themes developed.

In addition, the association generally accepts all invitations from United Nations agencies in Cameroon in order to share experiences and make other contributions. For example, it took part as an observer in the first technical consultation on the topic of mobilizing NGOs to accelerate the response to the AIDS epidemic, which was organized by the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) held on 12 August 2016.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The association cooperates extensively with United Nations bodies and with UNAIDS, in particular through the Ministry of Health. The voluntary HIV testing that is routinely offered to target populations was introduced by the Ministry of Health on the instructions of the World Health Organization and is an effective means of reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

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

With regard to Millennium Development Goal 1, the association each year provides care to 50 orphans with AIDS and vulnerable children; it provides training in agroforestry work; and it provides integration assistance to 12 young orphans who have become the heads of their households at a very young age and to other vulnerable children. This is both to empower them and to produce useful resources for poor and vulnerable populations. With regard to Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6, the association contributes through education and awareness-raising about sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and other opportunistic diseases related to HIV/AIDS; the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV; and the promotion of family planning. Since 4 February 2016, the association has been offering free and voluntary HIV/AIDS testing as part of its health campaigns in order to reduce HIV/AIDS prevalence effectively. People diagnosed as HIV-positive are directed to, and advised to remain in, care units in the health districts with which the organization has signed cooperation agreements.

In addition, the association has created the Centre for the Promotion of Socioeconomic Activities. The NGO has established a number of partnerships with renowned schools that were created by the Government for agroforestry work, such as the Practical School of Agricultural in Binguela.

8. Comité français des organisations non gouvernementales pour la liaison et l'information des Nations Unies

Special, 2005

Introduction

The Comité français des organisations non gouvernementales pour la liaison et l'information des Nations Unies was established in 1948 and comprises more than 100 non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that liaise with and share information about the United Nations.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Committee aims to disseminate information on the views and work of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, to convey the needs of populations and to offer suggestions to the United Nations.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Committee has contributed to the work of the United Nations in the following ways:

- A debate on violence against women and children at the Paris bar association, France, 21 November 2013;
- An open letter to President Obama to encourage the United States to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child, March 2014;
- A letter to the Prime Minister of the Central African Republic on 2 May 2014, offering the Committee's help to protect women and children threatened by conflict and intervention; and to the Secretary of State for Cooperation and the President of France, seeking France's commitment to avoiding a genocide in the Central African Republic;
- An open letter to the agencies to oppose the registration of a surrogacy that was authorized abroad with the civil registry, 30 June 2015;
- A call for applications from experienced women to participate in peacekeeping missions in 2015;
- An email to the president of the senatorial friendship group between France and the countries of the Horn of Africa, and to the National Assembly friendship group between France and Eritrea, drawing their attention to the situation in Eritrea, 24 May 2016;
- A conference on the Convention of 4 July 2016 between the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the High Council of French Notariat regarding children with no legal identity, Maison de l'Europe, Paris, November 2016.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Committee has participated in the following meetings:

- United Nations day in Brussels, Belgium, at the invitation of the Regional United Nations Information Centre for Western Europe, 20 October 2013;

- A colloquium at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and celebrations for the seventieth anniversary of the French Association for the United Nations, 24 October 2015;
- The signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Union of Notaries (UINL) on the implementation of guidelines for land tenures, 8 January 2016; and
- The International Forum of NGOs in official partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the role of women in fighting poverty, 29 June 2015.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The Committee participated in the commemorations held by UNESCO to mark 60 years of friendship between France and Japan on 16 May 2014, and the *Semaines Sociales de France* at UNESCO, Porte de la Villette, Paris, held from 2 to 4 October 2015 and on 19 and 20 November 2016. It also participated in the international conference on the identification of people, held jointly by the World Bank and the High Council of French Notariat on 21 September 2016.

The Committee invited the following United Nations representatives to participate in its General Assemblies: General Jean Cot, Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), on 20 June 2013; Cyril Ritchie, the re-elected President of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, and Ambassador Sotiris Varouxakis, former Deputy Secretary-General of the Union for the Mediterranean, on 19 June 2014; and General Amine Cisse, United Nations Special Representative, in June 2015.

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

The Committee's initiatives included:

- Producing a report on the suspension of work on the “Great Green Wall” project for security reasons, except in the Senegalese section where progress was being made, February 2013;
- Celebrating International Women's Day at the bar association, 8 March 2013;
- Participating in the opening ceremony of the Francophone Games in Nice, France, 7 September 2013;
- Awarding 10 citizenship and health prizes during the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations, at the French Society of Authors, Composers and Publishers of Music, 14 December 2015;
- Sharing with NGOs 60 lectures on the state of the world at the *Géopolitiques de Nantes*, which were organized by the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs and closed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, from 30 September to 1 October 2016; and
- Participating in the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Paris, from 30 November to 12 December 2015.

9. Fédération européenne des centres de recherche et d'information sur le sectarisme

Special, 2009

Introduction

The Fédération européenne des centres de recherche et d'information sur le sectarisme has 30 European member countries, several of which are in Eastern Europe, and 5 non-European member countries, namely Argentina, Australia, Israel, Kazakhstan and United States.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Federation groups together European and international associations that are concerned about sectarian organizations that tend to exert influence over individuals and whose practices are contrary to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and national and international legislation. Its goals are to inform individuals, alert Governments and represent victims before international bodies. It serves as an information network.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Federation has representatives in Vienna, Geneva and New York. The organization participates in all the sessions to which it has access, in particular those on the protection of children and older persons, education, women's rights and economic and social rights.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Federation attended all the sessions of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York from 25 to 27 September 2015. It also participated in the celebration of the seventieth anniversary of the United Nations on 24 October 2015, and in the sixth session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing in New York from 14 to 16 July 2015.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The Federation issued statements at the sessions of the Commission for Social Development in 2015, 2016 and 2017: [E/CN.5/2015/NGO/6](#), [E/CN.5/2016/NGO/61](#) and [E/CN.5/2017/NGO/15](#). In the same years, it also issued statements at the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women: [E/CN.6/2015/NGO/224](#), [E/CN.6/2016/NGO/168](#) and [E/CN.6/2017/NGO/16](#).

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

Every year, the Federation organizes a conference in one of its member countries. The latest were held in Bulgaria and Belgium. The Federation duly promotes the values of the United Nations and includes a section on the work of the United Nations in its activity reports.

The Federation's activities are cross-cutting and address many objectives of the United Nations. They address the rights of children, women and older persons,

all of whom could be affected by sectarian influence. In that vein, it recently added radicalization as an area of research.

10. Femmes autochtones du Québec

Special, 2009

Introduction

Femmes autochtones du Québec was created in 1968 for the purpose of representing and defending the interests of indigenous women, their families and their communities throughout Québec, Canada.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization supports the efforts of indigenous women to improve their living conditions by promoting non-violence, justice, equal rights and health. It also supports women in their community involvement.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization contributed to the promotion and dissemination of a booklet on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in English and French. Furthermore, in 2014, one of the organization's representatives received training in Geneva, Switzerland on sexual health and reproductive rights.

The organization has participated in many national activities related to the work of the United Nations, for example the Peoples' Social Forum in Ottawa, 21–24 August 2015; the seventh international conference on francophone feminist research in Montreal, 24–28 August 2015; and the World Social Forum in Montreal, 9–14 August 2016.

Representatives of Femmes autochtones du Québec travelled to Fribourg, Switzerland, to present a document prepared by the organization at a conference of the DIALOG network from 23 to 29 March 2015, on the situation of missing and murdered indigenous women in Canada. It also organized gatherings for the families of missing and murdered indigenous women, for example in Québec from 23 to 26 April 2015 and from 27 to 30 October 2016. In addition, from 19 to 22 October 2016, the organization held a gathering for indigenous women who had denounced the violence suffered at the hands of the police.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization attended the twelfth, thirteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York, 20–31 May 2013, 12–23 May 2014 and 9–13 May 2016, respectively. It also participated in the international expert group meeting on the theme "Sexual health and reproductive rights: articles 21, 22 (1), 23 and 24 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples", held in New York from 15 to 17 January 2014. In addition, it took part in the fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, 9–13 March 2015 and 14–24 March 2016, respectively; and in the global leadership school in New York, 20–25 April 2015.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The organization attended the eighth Continental Meeting of Indigenous Women of the Americas in Guatemala from 16 to 20 November 2015. It participated in various meetings with indigenous women of the Americas (the Continental Network of Indigenous Women), for example in New York from 21 to 23 September 2014. Finally, the organization is part of two working groups dealing with the activities of the United Nations, one of which is in French and the other in English, known as the coalitions on the rights of indigenous peoples. The two coalitions plan at least four meetings each year.

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

With regard to Millennium Development Goal 3, the organization provided training on the leadership of indigenous women and governance to women from the 10 indigenous nations that were members of the organization, from July to November 2016. To that end, Femmes autochtones du Québec travelled to communities to ensure that all women had access to this training. The organization also participated in several conferences promoting Goal 3. For example, the organization gave a speech on the day for equality between women and men in Ottawa on 15 May 2014. It also takes part in the organizing committee of the 12 days of action against violence, from 25 November to 6 December every year (2013–2016). The organization participates annually in the Global Women's March and organizes events for International Women's Day on 8 March and for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November.

From 6 to 8 December, the organization participated in a national gathering for midwives, in line with Goal 5. On 1 December 2014, the organization held a conference within the framework of World AIDS Day, in support of Goal 6. The organization participated in a Canada-wide climate march on 29 November 2014, in line with Goal 7.

11. Fondation pour la promotion de la santé et le développement de la recherche

Special, 2001

Introduction

The Fondation pour la promotion de la santé et le développement de la recherche (FOREM) is an Algerian nationwide organization. It contributes to poverty alleviation in the most deprived segments of society.

Aims and purposes of the organization

FOREM bases its actions on three objectives: humanitarian and solidarity activities, including the alleviation of suffering among victims of terror-related violence, particularly women and children; preventive action, particularly against HIV/AIDS, cancer, drug addiction, diabetes, malnutrition, and environmental pollution, through education and awareness-raising; and information, training and research activities, working at the national level on a regular, almost daily basis.

Significant changes in the organization

The Extraordinary General Assembly that was convened in 2012 indicated that the actions of FOREM should focus on most impoverished regions: Hauts Plateaux and the Sahara.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

FOREM has developed programmes following the guidelines established by the United Nations:

- Poverty eradication: a national aid programme for orphans which provides 8,000 children with \$360 per year for their educational needs; assistance for 5,000 poor families (including in Adrar, Relizane, Tissemsilt, Blida, Zemmouri, Biskra, Aurès and Skikda): food baskets and clothes; distribution of Braille and mathematical tablets and canes to visually impaired children (in Algiers, Adrar, Tissemsilt, Tiaret, Ghardaïa, El Oued, Biskra, Djelfa and Laghouat); performance of fistulas for patients in Adrar with renal insufficiency to allow them to undergo dialysis treatment; 2,000 consultations and 800 surgical operations for eye diseases through the establishment of a mobile ophthalmological clinic;
- Universal primary education: the 25 centres offer literacy classes in Arabic for illiterate women and teach trades to children who have been excluded from school. FOREM has a child rights observatory which has worked on several cases: school dropouts, violence in schools, school inclusion for children with disabilities, violence and disappearances. It has put forward proposals to the Government for the prevention of kidnapping using an “abduction alert” plan, which was officially implemented in the country on 20 November 2016;
- Gender equality and the empowerment of women: FOREM gives special attention to rural women by organizing training workshops for them. This training is managed in collaboration with the department for vocational training and contributes to the empowerment of women.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization met with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to education on 31 January 2015 in Algiers. FOREM also held discussions with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to health on 28 April 2016 in Algiers.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

FOREM set up a botanical conservatory and seed bank in Adrar, southern Algeria, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2015–2016. It has also participated in UNICEF activities in Algiers.

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

In order to combat child mortality, FOREM runs a health education programme for children and mothers every year, encouraging breastfeeding and combating nutritional imbalances, including child obesity. At the national level, it held a conference on the topic of paediatric cardiology.

FOREM continues its communication activities aimed at women of reproductive age with a view to reducing the risk of maternal mortality and improving maternal health. Several workshops have been organized by a unit of

specialized midwives. FOREM has also sent teams of gynaecologists to the provinces of Tissemsilt, Adrar and Ghardaïa to offer consultations and to perform surgical operations.

FOREM carries out awareness-raising activities to combat HIV/AIDS in several high schools, training centres and national universities, throughout the country and in its centres. In addition, training sessions have been provided for the benefit of imams, and have been highly successful.

The organization has established several other programmes, including against spousal abuse, domestic violence, violence in stadiums and schools, and drug abuse, with visits to 26 provinces; for a culture of peace with students; and conferences on combating radicalization.

12. Fondation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international

Special, 2013

Introduction

The Fondation pour les études et recherches sur le développement international (FERDI) is a French think tank on international development. Its work and influence cover the areas of development effectiveness, sustainable development and global governance. In particular, FERDI analyses questions relating to national and international funding for development, regional integration, climate change, migration, human capital, least developed countries, and the Sustainable Development Goals. FERDI also develops innovative development indicators, and recently put an “observatory of sustainable competitiveness” data platform online to describe and measure the competitiveness of African countries. FERDI covers francophone African countries and least developed countries in particular.

Aims and purposes of the organization

FERDI aims to use the results of rigorous research to shape development policies. It therefore reaches out to French institutions for regional and international development (United Nations institutions, the African Development Bank, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) and the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC), the European Commission and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development, or French Development Agency). By circulating documents among them and participating in various forums, FERDI uses its messages to influence major debates on development.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

FERDI has been working with the United Nations for several years on the least developed countries, particularly regarding their characterization and graduation. It has also contributed to discussions on the definition of the economic vulnerability index and has built retrospective data for this index for the United Nations. Furthermore, the idea put forward by FERDI for the allocation of assistance to the most vulnerable countries has been translated into General Assembly resolution [67/221](#), paragraph 23. The adoption of this resolution is the

result of several discussions at the highest level. FERDI also contributes to the changes in Aid for Trade programme through various publications and participation in working sessions with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the other institutions involved.

On the topic of climate change, FERDI contributes to discussions through its participation in the Conference of the Parties, the two most recent being COP 21 and COP 22. On these occasions, FERDI has presented the publication “Towards a Workable and Effective Climate Regime” and argued that priority should be given to the most vulnerable countries in the allocation of adaptation funds.

With regard to the Sustainable Development Goals, FERDI focuses partly on specific thematic areas (education, health, mobilization of domestic resources) and partly on performance measurement indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization has participated in the following meetings:

- Midterm review of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, Antalya, Turkey, 27 to 29 May 2016. FERDI co-organized three parallel events;
- Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 13 to 16 July 2015. FERDI organized a parallel event on the topic of vulnerabilities;
- Conference of the Parties (COP 22), United Nations Climate Change Conference, Marrakesh, Morocco, 10 to 15 November 2016. FERDI organized three parallel events;
- Conference of the Parties (COP 21), United Nations Climate Change Conference, Paris, France, 30 November to 12 December 2015. FERDI organized three parallel events; and
- The fourteenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Nairobi, Kenya, 17 to 22 July 2016, during which FERDI took part in a panel discussion.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The main bodies that FERDI collaborates with are:

- The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, both on questions relating to least developed countries;
- The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations regarding least developed countries and questions related to financing for development; and
- WTO for work on Aid for Trade.

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

FERDI has focused its work on performance measurements for the Millennium Development Goals and for the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly with a new method for taking into account the initial situation of countries as they work

towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The work of FERDI on education, health and demographics will also contribute to debates on the subject.

13. Fondation Surgir

Special, 2005

Introduction

Founded in June 2001, Fondation Surgir operates solely in the public interest.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Fondation Surgir seeks to defend and assist girls, as well as women and their children, who are victims of any form of physical, psychological, sexual or social violence. Its programmes take place in Switzerland and in the Middle East.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Foundation was not able to participate as much as it would have liked in the work of the Economic and Social Council during the reporting period because it focused, in line with its objective of combating violence against women, on the development of its programmes abroad. A proposal to organize a panel at the start of the 2017 academic year is currently being studied with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Foundation participated in the following meetings:

- Working group of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on discrimination against women, June 2013;
- Twenty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council, June 2014. The Foundation participated in two panels: “Lebanon religious leaders and civil society join to address violence against women and girls” and “The role of the UN in combating caste-based violence and discrimination”;
- Geneva Peace Talks 2015, “It’s Time for Peace!”, organized by Interpeace, the United Nations and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, September 2015;
- “Healing the wounds of war: Rebuilding nations and generations with the power of forgiveness”, organized by Youth with a Mission, November 2016.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

No cooperation was specified.

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

The organization’s initiatives include the following:

- A conference on “Women in societies in transition: Challenges and priorities” to give a voice to female activists in Northern Africa and the Middle East, to strengthen their fight through solidarity and to enrich knowledge, Amman (Jordan), March 2013. The countries represented were Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq,

Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, the State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen;

- Organization of a press conference entitled “Women in War” with Yazidi women from Iraq and Syria who fled their country after finding themselves at the heart of the conflict in some cases, or arrested by the Syrian regime in others, Geneva (Switzerland), January 2015;
- A conference on “Crimes committed in the name of honour in Europe” at the Geneva International Conference Centre (Switzerland), under the patronage of the city and canton of Geneva and with the participation of European experts on the subject from Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom in March 2015. One hundred and forty professionals from the health, police, social and judicial sectors, representatives of the cantonal and federal authorities, of the United Nations, and of women’s rights organizations participated in the conference;
- The filming of a documentary in Jordan entitled “Le cercle infernal des réfugiées syriennes” which depicts the plight of Syrians fleeing their country, overburdened Syrian refugee camps, trafficking in human beings and the state of permanent insecurity, March 2016. Two public film screenings followed by discussions were organized in Geneva and Pully, Switzerland;
- Legal, social and psychological support for Syrian refugees in Jordan, in partnership with Sisterhood is Global Institute/Jordan (SIGI/J) 2015–2016;
- Counselling centre for women victims of violence in partnership with SAWA, State of Palestine, 2013–2016; and
- Rehabilitation of women imprisoned for their protection from honour crimes, in partnership with SIGI/J, Jordan, 2013–2014.

14. Genève pour les droits de l’homme: formation internationale

Special, 2009

Introduction

Genève pour les droits de l’homme: formation internationale is a training organization for human rights defenders and all persons working on the protection and promotion of human rights throughout the world. The organization offers courses in Geneva and in other regions of Switzerland.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization’s objectives are: to achieve rights, to implement United Nations recommendations and to teach others about United Nations mechanisms, procedures and programmes. The courses focus on the Human Rights Council, its mechanisms, special procedures and the universal periodic review, as well as treaty bodies and national and regional mechanisms. The main beneficiaries are non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national institutions and diplomats.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During this period, the organization provided inter alia:

- Eleven courses in Geneva (2 to 3 weeks long) during sessions of the Human Rights Council (198 human rights defenders were trained);
- Twelve expert seminars on: religious freedom, enforced disappearances (2), business and human rights (4), the Vienna Conference, international criminal law, the death penalty and indigenous peoples (2);
- Twelve courses held during the universal periodic review; and
- A course for diplomats from Guinea.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the period in question, the organization trained 111 interns (43 per cent of whom were from regions outside of Geneva) who participated in all sessions of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, as well as sessions of treaty bodies and consultations with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). As a training organization, Genève pour les droits de l'homme does not take the floor, but provides guidance and advice to NGOs and diplomats alike.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The organization cooperates closely with OHCHR. It gave four courses on OHCHR for national institutions and four courses for OHCHR minority fellows. Special procedures mandate-holders and treaty body members were invited as seminar experts. The organization participates actively in the Human Rights Council working group on accessibility for persons with disabilities. The courses in other countries are prepared with the relevant branches of OHCHR and of the United Nations Development Programme.

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

For the organization, the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals are at the heart of human rights and thus of all its courses.

15. Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding

Special, 2013

Introduction

The Institute for Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding is a Swiss non-governmental organization (NGO) with local branches in Morocco and Tunisia which specializes in mediation, dialogue and peacebuilding in Northern Africa.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Institute works to consolidate peace at the individual, societal and international levels; to promote the non-violent transformation of conflict; to strengthen a conflict-sensitive approach to cooperation and development projects; to prevent violence; to facilitate and assist reconciliation processes after violence and war; and to promote and develop capacities in terms of mediation, negotiation and dialogue. The Institute pursues these non-profit objectives.

Significant changes in the organization

After 10 years of operation, the organization changed its strategy and its name: in 2016, the Institute became “ae-Centre”, with the explicit intention of focusing its

resources in a more targeted way, both thematically and regionally, in Northern Africa. Since 2015, its projects have been supported by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. In 2016, the Institute became a member of the umbrella association FEDEVACO, which brings together development NGOs in the Vaud region and thus ensures high-quality development projects and the responsible use of public funding for development cooperation.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization promotes the three (economic, social and environmental) dimensions of sustainable development.

Current projects are listed below:

- Support for a social dialogue process on tensions in the Gafsa mining basin in Tunisia since 2016;
- Organization since 2007 of the International Academy and Forum on Peace Mediation and Dialogue. Every year, the event brings together about 30 experts working in our areas of expertise; and
- A project for the institutionalization and promotion of mediation in Morocco with a view to transforming mining conflicts, since 2014.

Completed projects are listed below:

- The training of about 100 Swiss mediators through the organization of a certificate of advanced studies accredited by the University of Basel, Geneva, Switzerland, 2007–2015;
- Support for a dialogue on Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan, with public and private representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh, 2011–2016;
- Development of a master’s degree in peace studies in cooperation with the universities of Basel (Switzerland), Belgrade (Serbia), Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and Zagreb (Croatia), 2011–2015;
- Training of defence ministry representatives on peacebuilding in the Maghreb and the Sahel, in 2016; and
- Organization of the International Peacebuilders’ Forum, in cooperation with Caux — Initiatives of Change, 2014 and 2015.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Institute organized a round table discussion on the theme “Dialogue and mediation in North Africa: Insights from the field” during Geneva Peace Week 2016 in Geneva on 7 November 2016. It actively participated in the 2016 United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in Geneva, from 14 to 16 November 2016. It participated in the bi-annual meeting of Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva with NGOs in Geneva on 25 February 2015.

Cooperation with United Nations system entities

The Institute communicated with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) in Lebanon regarding future cooperation projects. It provided assistance to identify a Swiss expert for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to participate

as “young talent” during the “Rendez-vous for the Euro-Arab Dialogue” on preventing extremism in 2016.

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

The Institute is certified by EduQua, a leading Swiss certification body for training institutions. Through its various training programmes, the organization contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 4. In all its activities, it seeks to ensure gender equality and the advancement of women, thus contributing to Goal 5. For example, the dialogue held in Morocco has created the possibility for women’s cooperation.

Projects concerning the mining conflicts in Morocco and Tunisia not only allow for the preservation and creation of workplaces, but also for economic growth through improved functioning of an industry that is essential for the economy, thus contributing to Goal 8.

The organization’s projects allow for the reduction of tensions and the transformation of sometimes violent conflicts between different actors in the societies concerned. Promoting mediation provides a new, alternative approach to traditional justice. This also makes it possible to shift some of the burden away from the courts, thereby contributing to the Goal 16.
