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SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report supplements and updates as at 10 December 2002 the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of 14 August 2002 (A/57/308) which is available at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The report contains the recommendations of the seventh session of the Board of Trustees of the Fund in 2002 which were approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General on 4 February 2002, including the list of project and travel grants recommended; the new guidelines adopted by the Board at that session and relevant statistics on the amount of applications received and approved as well as on contributions received. Relevant information is also included on the implementation of those recommendations. The present report also updates the previous report of the Secretary-General to the Commission (E/CN.4/2002/93 of 13 December 2001 and Corr.1).

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I. MANDATE OF THE FUND

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991, established the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery with the purpose of extending humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery and assisting representatives of non-governmental organizations from different regions that deal with issues of contemporary forms of slavery to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery by providing them with financial assistance. Funding is obtained by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private or public entities and individuals.

II. ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2. In conformity with the above-mentioned resolution, the Fund is administered in accordance with the relevant financial regulations and rules of the United Nations on general trust funds for humanitarian assistance, by the Secretary-General, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), with the advice of a Board of Trustees.

3. The Board is composed of five United Nations experts with relevant experience in the field of human rights and, in particular, of issues of contemporary forms of slavery, serving in their personal capacities. In October 2001 the Secretary-General appointed the following members for a three-year renewable term ending on 31 December 2004, in consultation with the current Chairman of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution: Swami Agnivesh (India); Theo van Boven (Netherlands); Cheikh Saad-Bouh Kamara (Mauritania); Tatiana Matveeva (Russian Federation); and José de Souza Martins (Brazil).

III. BENEFICIARIES

4. In accordance with the selection criteria adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122, the beneficiaries of assistance from the Fund shall be, in the opinion of the Board: (a) individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery, (b) representatives of non-governmental organizations dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery who would not be able to attend the session of the Working Group without the assistance provided by the Fund and who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery.

IV. GRANTS CYCLE

5. The deadline for submitting applications for travel or project grants was 15 September 2002. Admissible applications received will be examined by the Board at its next session, scheduled to take place in Geneva from 20 to 24 January 2003. The recommendations for grants adopted by the Board at that session will be submitted for

approval to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on behalf of the Secretary-General. The grants approved should be paid in February/March 2003. Beneficiaries of travel grants will attend the Working Group, scheduled to take place in Geneva in May/June 2003. Beneficiaries of project grants will have to provide to the secretariat of the Fund narrative and financial reports on the use of their grants before 1 November 2003. Those organizations which can prove that it is impossible at that time to provide final reports will have to provide interim reports by 1 November 2003 and final reports by 1 January 2004. Until satisfactory reports on the use of previous grants are received, no new project grant can be paid to these beneficiaries. For a detailed explanation on the grants cycle refer to A/57/308.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD AT ITS SEVENTH SESSION

6. At its seventh session, in January 2002, the Board recommended 21 project grants for an amount of US\$ 122,000 and 7 travel grants for an amount of US\$ 14,046 to allow representatives of NGOs to participate in the twenty-seventh session of the Working Group, which took place in Geneva from 27 to 31 May 2002 (for detailed information on these recommendations, including a list of beneficiaries of grants, see A/57/308). The above-mentioned project grants have been paid and the beneficiaries of travel grants participated in the Working Group.

VI. NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

7. The eighth session of the Board is scheduled to take place in Geneva at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais Wilson, from 20 to 24 January 2003.

8. In order to be able to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily and meet the increase in new applications received for 2003 the Board of Trustees of the Fund estimated at its seventh session that the Fund would need at least US\$ 300,000 before its eighth session in January 2003.

9. This amount includes the amount needed for travel and project grants, the annual session of the Board, programme support costs and an operating cash reserve. In accordance with the United Nations rules governing general trust funds for humanitarian assistance, such as this Fund, the above-mentioned amount includes 15 per cent of estimated annual expenditures which must be earmarked as a reserve for the following year, as well as 13 per cent of estimated annual expenditure for programme support costs.

10. At the time of drafting the present report, according to information available at OHCHR, the new contributions paid and registered by the United Nations Treasurer which are available for the eighth session are as follows:

Table 1
Contributions received from Governments as at 10 December 2002

States	Amount in US\$	Paid on
Brazil	10 000	28 October 2002
Cyprus	4 000	6 August 2002
France	34 778	21 March 2002
Holy See	1 000	22 October 2002
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	5 000	6 February 2002
Netherlands	87 870	20 October 2002
Qatar	10 000	10 April 2002
Subtotal	152 648	

Table 2
Contributions received from non-governmental organizations, other private and public entities and individuals as at 10 December 2002

NGOs and individuals	Amount in US\$	Paid on
Aichi International Connecting Conference for Human Rights, Japan	212	7 May 2002
Association for Humanitarian Lawyers Inc.	500	15 February 2002
Students at the Instituto Oscar Romero, Italy	577	10 May 2002
Mr. Hirohisa Kitano and Japan Lawyers International Solidarity Association	173	7 May 2002
Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights	267	7 May 2002
Nagasaki Case	75	23 August 2002
Mr. Yorio Shiokawa	185	7 May 2002
	397	23 August 2002
HVAC Systems Technology Inc.	125	14 January 2002
Subtotal	2 511	
Grand total tables 1 + 2	155 159	

11. New voluntary contributions should be paid by donors to the Fund by the end of 2002 in order to be duly recorded by the United Nations Treasurer in advance of the annual session of the Board. Contributions which cannot be recorded before the session of the Board will be carried over to the following year.

VII. FUND-RAISING

A. Resolutions

12. In its resolution 1999/46, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to transmit to Governments an appeal for voluntary contributions to the Fund.

13. In its resolution 2002/28, the Sub-Commission expressed its gratitude to the donor Governments, organizations, trade unions and individuals, including young students, who had contributed to the Fund and encouraged them to continue doing so. The Sub-Commission also recalled the appeal made by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122 to all Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private and public entities and individuals to contribute to the Fund and encouraged them to do so in order to enable the Fund to fulfil its mandate effectively in the year 2003.

B. Appeal for funds by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

14. As recommended by the Board of Trustees, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights sent a letter to all Governments on 9 September 2002 drawing their attention to the above-mentioned resolutions of the Commission and Sub-Commission and appealing to them to contribute an additional amount of US\$ 300,000 to the Fund, if possible before the Board's eighth session in January 2003 so that their contributions could be taken into consideration at this session when recommending travel and project grants.

15. The High Commissioner, upon the recommendation of the Board adopted at the seventh session and taking into consideration the overall needs and priorities of the Office, confirmed the appeal for an amount of US\$ 300,000 approved on 4 February 2002 and included this appeal in the Annual Appeal. Overview of activities and financial requirements 2003.

VIII. HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND

16. Voluntary contributions to the Fund can be made by bank transfer to the "United Nations Geneva General Fund":

By bank transfer to the "United Nations Geneva General Fund"

in US dollars (US\$): account 240/C/590/160.1

or other currencies: account 240/C/590/160.0

c/o UBS AG, P.O. Box 2770,

CH 1211 Geneva 2, Swift address: UBSWCHZH12A

By cheque to the order of the "United Nations" to be sent to The Treasurer,
United Nations Office in Geneva, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

Please mention, in any case, in your payment order: "For the Slavery Fund, account SH"

IX. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

17. For any additional information about this Fund, please contact the Fund's secretariat, at Trust Funds Unit, SSB OHCHR, United Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; phone: (+41 22) 917 91 64, 917 91 45 or 917 92 66; fax: 917 90 17; e-mail: dpremont@ohchr.org/eortado-rosich@ohchr.org.

X. CONCLUSION

18. **As recommended by the Board of Trustees of the Fund at its seventh session and approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General, donors are invited to contribute to the Fund by the end of the year in order for the contributions to be duly recorded by the United Nations Treasurer in advance of the annual session of the Board. Contributions that cannot be recorded before the session of the Board will be considered at its next annual session.**

19. **In the Board's view, in order to be able to satisfy all new applications envisaged for 2003 and to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily, the Fund would need at least US\$ 300,000 before the eighth session of the Board, scheduled to be held at the end of January 2003.**

20. **In its resolution 2002/28, the Sub-Commission encouraged donor Governments, organizations, trade unions and individuals, including young students, who had contributed to the Fund to continue doing so. The Sub-Commission also recalled the appeal made by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122 to all Governments, non-governmental organizations, other private and public entities and individuals to contribute to the Fund and encouraged them to do so in order to enable the Fund to fulfil its mandate effectively in the year 2003.**
