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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 2 November 2004 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 30 August 2004 (A/59/309), which is available to the Commission on Human Rights. The report contains the recommendations of the ninth session of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, which were approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General on 23 February 2004, including the list of project and travel grants recommended, the new guidelines adopted by the Board at that session and relevant statistics on the number 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.4/2004/78 and Add.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 (project grants) 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 (travel grants). 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; and (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 2004. Admissible applications received will be examined by the Board at its next session, scheduled to take place in Geneva from 24 to 28 January 2005. 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 2005. Beneficiaries of travel grants will attend the Working Group, scheduled to take place in Geneva in June 2005. Beneficiaries of project grants will have to provide the secretariat of the Fund with narrative and financial reports on the use of their grants before 1 November 2005. 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 2005 and final reports by 1 January 2006. 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 of the grants cycle, see A/59/309 of 30 August 2004.)

V. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD AT ITS NINTH SESSION

6. At its ninth session, in January 2004, the Board recommended 20 project grants for an amount of US\$ 150,700 and nine travel grants for an amount of US\$ 29,555 to allow representatives of NGOs to participate in the twenty-ninth session of the Working Group, which took place in Geneva in June 2004 (for detailed information on these recommendations, including a list of beneficiaries of grants, see A/59/309). The above-mentioned project grants have been paid and the beneficiaries of travel grants participated in the Working Group.

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

7. The tenth session of the Board is scheduled to take place in Geneva at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Palais Wilson, from 24 to 28 January 2005.

8. In order to be able to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily and meet the increase in new applications received for 2005 the Board of Trustees of the Fund estimated at its ninth session that it would need at least US\$ 325,000 before its tenth session.

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 tenth session are set out below, in tables 1 and 2.

Table 1**Contributions received from Governments as at 2 November 2004**

States	Amount in US\$	Paid on
Cyprus	4 000	21 May 2004
France	36 101	27 August 2004
Greece	12 000	9 July 2004
South Africa	7 214	10 March 2004
United Arab Emirates	29 961	25 March 2004
Subtotal	89 276	

Table 2**Contributions received from non-governmental organizations, other private and public entities and individuals as at 2 November 2004**

NGOs and individuals	Amount in US\$	Paid on
Students and teachers at the Instituto Oscar Romero, Italy	796	28 April 2004
Students and teachers of the Archway School, United Kingdom	910	14 July 2004
St. John Willey, People's Fund for Children	1 741	4 August 2004
Mr. Yorio Shiokawa	312	5 April 2004
Mr. Yorio Shiokawa	260	7 September 2004
Subtotal	4 019	
Grand total, tables 1 and 2	93 295	

11. New voluntary contributions should be paid by donors to the Fund by the end of 2004 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. The Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, in its resolution 2004/20 of 12 August 2004, recalled the appeal by the General Assembly to all Governments in its resolution 46/122 to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, and encouraged them to contribute to the Fund in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate effectively in 2005.

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

14. The Chairman, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, sent a letter to all Governments on 21 October 2004 drawing their attention to the above-mentioned resolutions and appealing to them to contribute to the Fund, if possible before the Board's tenth session in January 2005 so that their contributions could be taken into consideration at this session when recommending travel and project grants.

VIII. HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND

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

- **In United States dollars** and other currencies, to: "United Nations Office at Geneva", account 485001802, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, New York, N.Y. 10004, United States of America - Swift code: CHASUS33;
- **In euros and pounds sterling**, to: "United Nations Office at Geneva", account 23961 901, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, London, P.O. Box 440, Wollgate House, Coleman Street, London, United Kingdom - Swift code: CHASGB2L;
- **In Swiss francs**, to: "United Nations Geneva General Fund", account 240-C0590160.0, UBS, Rue du Rhône 8, Geneva 2, Switzerland - Swift code: UBSWCHZH12A;
- **By cheque** to the order of the "United Nations", addressed to: Trésorerie, Nations Unies, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

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

IX. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

16. For any additional information about this Fund, please contact the Fund's secretariat, at RRDB, OHCHR, United Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland (phone: (4122) 917-9164; fax: 917-9066; email: SlaveryFund@ohchr.org).

X. CONCLUSIONS

17. **As recommended by the Board of Trustees of the Fund at its ninth 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.**

18. **In the Board's view, in order to be able to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily, the Fund would need at least US\$ 325,000 before the tenth session of the Board, scheduled to be held at the end of January 2005.**

19. **In its resolution 2004/20, the Sub-Commission recalled the appeal by the General Assembly to all Governments in resolution 46/122 to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, and encouraged them to contribute to the Fund in order to enable it to fulfil its mandate effectively in 2005.**
