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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 3 November 2005 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 19 August 2005 (A/60/273), which is available to the Commission on Human Rights. The report contains the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Fund adopted at its tenth session, which were approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General on 16 March 2005, 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.4/2005/86 and Add.1 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 (project grants) and assisting representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) 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, NGOs, other private or public entities and individuals.

## **II. ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY**

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 of Trustees is composed of five United Nations experts with relevant experience in the field of human rights and, in particular, with issues of contemporary forms of slavery, serving in their personal capacities. In January 2005 the Secretary-General appointed the following members for a three-year term ending on 31 December 2007, 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: José de Souza Martins (Brazil), Prateep Ungsongtham Hata (Thailand), Cheikh Saad-Bouh Kamara (Chairperson, Mauritania), Gulnara Shahinian (Armenia) and David Weissbrodt (United States of America).

## **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 of Trustees: (a) individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery; and (b) representatives of NGOs 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. GRANT CYCLE**

5. The deadline for submitting applications for travel or project grants for 2006 was 15 September 2005. Admissible applications received will be examined by the Board of Trustees at its next session, scheduled to take place in Geneva from 30 January to 3 February 2006. The recommendations for grants adopted by the Board of Trustees 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 2006. Beneficiaries of travel grants will attend the Working Group, scheduled to take place in Geneva in June 2006. 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 2006. Those organizations that can prove that it is impossible at that time to provide final reports will have to provide interim reports by 1 November 2006 and final reports by 1 January 2007. 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 grant cycle, see A/60/273, paras. 5-10.)

#### **V. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY AT ITS TENTH SESSION**

6. At its tenth session, in March 2005, the Board of Trustees recommended 25 project grants for an amount of US\$ 215,330 and 7 travel grants for an amount of US\$ 14,800 to allow representatives of NGOs to participate in the thirtieth session of the Working Group, which took place in Geneva in June 2005 (for detailed information on these recommendations, including a list of beneficiaries of grants, see A/60/273). The above-mentioned project grants have been paid and the beneficiaries of travel grants have participated in the Working Group.

#### **VI. NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY**

7. The eleventh session of the Board of Trustees is scheduled to take place in Geneva at OHCHR, Palais Wilson, from 30 January to 3 February 2006.

8. In order to be able to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily and meet the increase in new applications received for 2006 the Board of Trustees of the Fund estimated at its tenth session that it would require at least US\$ 600,500 prior to its eleventh session.

9. This amount includes the amount needed for travel and project grants, the annual session of the Board of Trustees, 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 eleventh session are set out below, in tables 1 and 2.

**Table 1****Contributions received from Governments as at 3 November 2005**

State	Amount (in United States dollars)	Date paid
Chile	1 000	13 June 2005
France	64 683	29 April 2005
Greece	24 038	14 October 2005
India	5 000	2 June 2005
South Africa	7 514	15 June 2005
Total	102 235	

**Table 2****Contributions received from non-governmental organizations, other private and public entities and individuals as at 3 November 2005**

NGOs and individuals	Amount (in United States dollars)	Date paid
Students and teachers at the Instituto Commerciale Statale Oscar Romero, Italy	1 108	3 February 2005
Students and teachers at the Instituto Commerciale Statale Oscar Romero, Italy	544	26 April 2005
Yorio Shiokawa	417	28 April 2005
David Weissbrodt	500	29 June 2005
Students of Bonded and Child Labour Liberation Front Apna School, Pakistan	90	20 June 2005
Subtotal (table 2)	2 659	
Grand total (tables 1 and 2)	104 894	

11. New voluntary contributions should be paid by donors to the Fund by the end of 2005, 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 2005/30 of 11 August 2005, 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 2006.

#### **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 14 October 2005 drawing their attention to the mandate and work of the Fund and appealing to them to contribute to the Fund, if possible before the eleventh session of the Board of Trustees in January/February 2006 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, payable to: “United Nations Geneva General Fund”, account 485001802, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, New York, N.Y. 10036-2708, United States of America - Swift code: CHASUS33, ABA Code: 021000021;
- **In euros and pounds sterling**, payable to: “United Nations Office at Geneva”, account 23961 901, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, London, United Kingdom - Swift code: CHASGB2L; Sorting code: 60-92-42, IBAN: GB25 CHAS 6052 4223 9619 01;
- **In Swiss francs**, payable to: “United Nations Geneva General Fund”, account 240-C0590160.0, UBS, Rue du Rhône 8, CH-1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland - Swift code: UBSWCHZH12A; IBAN: CH92 0024 C059 0161 0;
- **By cheque** payable 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 secretariat of the Fund, at RRDB, OHCHR, United Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland (phone: (41) 22 917-93 81; fax: 917-90 66; email: [slaveryfund@ohchr.org](mailto:slaveryfund@ohchr.org)).

### **X. CONCLUSIONS**

17. **As recommended by the Board of Trustees of the Fund at its tenth 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 prior to the eleventh session of the Board of Trustees 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 require at least US\$ 600,500 for 2006.**

**19. In its resolution 2005/30, 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 2006.**

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