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1. China Society for Promotion of the Guangcai Programme

Special, 2000

Introduction

During the reporting period, China Society for Promotion of the Guangcai Programme held its fourth representative assembly and first meeting of the fourth council on 30 August 2010. The constitution of the organization was revised. The scope of its service was extended from poverty-stricken areas, areas inhabited by minority ethnic groups and border areas to the whole nation. Its aim was extended to include support for the implementation of significant national development strategies, including western development, the revitalization of old industrial bases such as north-east China, promoting the rise of central China and building a new socialist countryside.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In June 2008, a representative of the organization attended a conference on responding to change and building Asia's sustainable economy, held by the United Nations in the Republic of Korea. In March 2010, the organization attended a round-table forum on China and Africa on the theme of collaboration in the post-financial crisis era, organized by the China-Africa Business Council. About 50 people attended the forum, including United Nations officials, staff from embassies of African countries to China and private entrepreneurs. In April 2011, the organization, together with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) was involved in a forum held in Beijing on climate change and enterprise.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

In April 2008, a delegation of the organization participated in the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Accra. In May 2008, a delegation attended the sixteenth session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. In June 2008, the Vice-Chairman of the organization participated in a conference in Beijing that was attended by the Secretary-General and private entrepreneurs from China. He delivered a speech to introduce the organization and the situation concerning private entrepreneurs in China and social responsibility. In November 2009, he also attended and addressed a conference on promoting South-South cooperation.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In November 2008, the organization, together with UNDP and UNIDO, held a round-table conference on climate change and enterprise in Beijing. The three also co-held three training courses on building Chinese private entrepreneurs' capacity to address climate change, in Nanning, Nanchang and Chengdu, China, in 2009 and 2010. About 320 private entrepreneurs attended the training courses. The Vice-Chairman of the organization met with the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the representative of UNDP in China, in May 2011. The parties agreed to continue to work together to alleviate poverty, with a particular focus on carrying out specific poverty-alleviation programmes in China.

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

A delegation from the organization visited South Africa and Mauritius in 2009, where they were received by the Vice-Premier and established a broad collaboration relationship with the Government, investing organizations, the chamber of commerce and a trade association. A foundation of the organization established in August 2009 has been used to help teachers and students carry out water environment research, and to subsidize educational water protection activities carried out by middle school and primary school students.

Additional information

In December 2011, the organization held its first training course for private entrepreneurs in the United States of America. A total of 19 private entrepreneurs took part in the course, which included class teaching, cooperation and visits. The organization has actively helped Chinese private entrepreneurs to participate in poverty alleviation and development initiatives.

2. EarthRights International

Special, 2004

Introduction

EarthRights International is a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) with offices in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Lima and Washington, D.C. While its advocacy activities focus on the Mekong region, the Amazon basin and United States policy on corporate accountability for human rights abuses, its litigation is global in scope and includes cases from other regions, such as West Africa and India.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization is dedicated to combining the power of law and the power of people in defence of human rights and environmental protection. It represents and partners with individuals and communities who are victims, survivors or at risk of human rights and environmental abuses, most of which occur during natural resource exploitation efforts such as logging, oil and gas development, mining and water diversion projects. It assists local communities by enhancing their capacity to raise their own voices to protect their rights and homelands and prevent harm before it occurs. When violations do occur, the organization and its local partners use international, regional and domestic legal systems and public education and advocacy to demand accountability. In addition, by working directly with communities and bringing media attention to individual stories and key cases, it helps to put a human face on pressing human rights and environmental issues.

During the reporting period, the organization opened an office in Lima and began advocacy and litigation support work focusing on cross-border indigenous issues in the Amazon region.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the primary contributions of the organization to the work of the United Nations included participation in the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. It submitted one comment to the Special Representative in March 2008, entitled “Mechanisms for improving access to justice for victims of human rights abuses by corporations”, and another in October 2009, entitled “The ‘knowledge’ standard for aiding and abetting”. In January 2011, the organization also provided comments on the draft of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect, and Remedy” Framework. The organization also participated in the universal periodic review process, for which it provided submissions for the United States in April 2010 and for Myanmar in July 2010.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

A representative of the organization attended a meeting entitled “Conflict, commerce and obstacles to justice”, hosted by the Norwegian organization Fafo in support of the mandate of the Special Representative, on 11 and 12 September 2009, in Oslo.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization personnel cooperated and maintained communication with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Bangkok, primarily on issues involving human rights and corporate activity in Myanmar. It engaged with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar in 2010 and 2011, including by helping to organize one of his visits to the border region between Myanmar and Thailand. Informal written communications from the organization were also informative for the Special Rapporteur’s reports.

The organization engaged regularly with the International Labour Organization (ILO) throughout the reporting period. It arranged meetings for ILO representatives in Myanmar so that the forced labour complaint mechanism of ILO could be explained to locally affected people. The organization also met with ILO representatives in Geneva on at least two occasions to discuss forced labour and investment in Myanmar.

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

The organization did not undertake initiatives specifically targeted at supporting the Millennium Development Goals, as it focused primarily on activities to promote corporate accountability for human and environmental rights abuses. However, its activities are in line with achieving the Millennium Development Goals, as the communities it represents and works with, primarily indigenous communities in countries such as Myanmar and Peru, often seek transparency, environmental sustainability and good governance as part of the remedies for the abuses they have suffered.

3. Environic Foundation International

Special, 2008

Introduction

Environic Foundation International was founded in 1970 in preparation for the first International Youth Conference on the Environment, sponsored by the United Nations, held in Hamilton, Canada, in 1971. The Conference was sanctioned by the United Nations prior to the 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm. Since then, the organization has focused primarily on the development and delivery of environmental and sustainability education programmes for college and university youth.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The mission of the organization is to move people from destructive to constructive social, economic and environmental practices by providing education that promotes understanding of the critical global social, economic and environmental sustainability issues. The goal of its education programmes is to build the capacity of students in higher education to better understand these issues, and their interrelationships, in order to develop and apply effective solutions.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The education programmes of the organization support the work of virtually all United Nations organizations, since the goal of its work is to make the understanding of global social, economic and environmental sustainability issues, and effective strategies to address them, part of the basic education of all college or university students. The issues examined in its education programmes are those that have been identified as most critical by the Commission on Sustainable Development. They include agriculture, biodiversity, biotechnology, climate, consumption, culture, decision-making, education, energy, environmentally sound technologies, finance, forests, health, human settlements, justice and peace, land, mountains, oceans and seas, population, poverty, public awareness, trade, transportation, waste and water.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

In May 2008, the organization was co-sponsor and presenter with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) of a forum on sustainable systems, with a focus on the environment, education and sustainable development in Africa, held as part of the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

In November 2008, the organization directed a workshop for educators on sustainable societies in Africa, with a focus on modules on education for sustainable development. This was an educational programme for university students throughout Africa developed in partnership with UNEP at the first international conference on mainstreaming environment and sustainability into African universities, held in Nairobi.

In May 2009, the organization directed a workshop for African university vice-chancellors on sustainable societies in Africa, including modules on education for

sustainable development on behalf of UNEP at the twelfth General Conference of the Association of African Universities, in held in Abuja.

In September 2009, the organization participated in a presentation of sustainable societies in Africa, including modules on education for sustainable development, at a UNEP workshop on mainstreaming environment and sustainability into Caribbean universities, held in Kingston.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

During the reporting period, the organization partnered with UNEP on the development of sustainable societies in Africa, including modules on education for sustainable development, as part of the UNEP programme on mainstreaming environment and sustainability into African universities.

It also partnered with UNEP personnel for a presentation on sustainable societies in Africa, including modules on education for sustainable development, at the fifth World Environmental Education Congress, held in Montreal, Canada, in May 2009.

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

The organization normally focuses its activities on the development and implementation of programmes on education for social, economic and environmental sustainability awareness, working mainly with UNEP, academic institutions and businesses in the United States and Africa.

In May 2008, the organization was a panellist in a round-table radio series on the Millennium Development Goals, held as part of the sixteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Additional information

During the reporting period, in addition to making sustainable societies in Africa and modules on education for sustainable development available internationally through the UNEP website, it also developed new versions of an education programme on sustainable societies based on the global sustainability issues identified as most critical by the Commission on Sustainable Development. The new programme includes items on global sustainable societies and on the James river basin and sustainable societies for business, which are currently being used at two universities in the United States.

4. Hunter College Center for Community and Urban Health

Special, 2008

Introduction

The Center conducts scientifically sound, evidence-based research, training and programme development in the field of public health.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Center prides itself on co-designing and evaluating health interventions locally, throughout the United States and globally, with members of client, service and scientific communities to improve the lives of underserved populations.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Executive Director of the Center co-chaired the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on HIV/AIDS at the United Nations in New York. The Center works and publishes in the field of public health, notably with the World Health Organization (WHO) on global guidance on HIV disclosure and with the United States National Institutes of Health to mentor the next generation of HIV intervention researchers.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Center organized, co-sponsored or spoke at the following events:

(a) The Center was the organizer and moderator of a psychology caucus on what psychology offers to the education of women and girls, held as a parallel event of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York in March 2011;

(b) The Center gave a presentation on the causes and consequences of poverty, stigma and HIV among children and families at a side event of the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Social Development, held in New York in February 2011;

(c) The Center gave a presentation on children's reactions worldwide to learning they are HIV positive at a parallel event of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on HIV/AIDS on World AIDS Day, in New York in December 2011;

(d) The Center gave a presentation on managing our communities, ourselves and HIV at a briefing on World AIDS Day sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations and the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on HIV/AIDS, held in New York in December 2009;

(e) The Center participated in a caucus on HIV/AIDS, with a focus on sharing concerns and partnering for action, held as a parallel event to the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York in March 2010;

(f) The Center took part in a panel on the emotional and physical stress of caregiving for people living with HIV/AIDS, in a parallel event of the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York in March 2009.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Center, through the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), provided guides for speakers at the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on AIDS, held in New York in June 2011, and co-sponsored the 2011 UNAIDS World AIDS Day panel discussion.

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

The programmes, presentations and publications of the Center aim to combat HIV and promote gender equality, often by advocating for universal education.

5. Indigenous Peoples Survival Foundation

Special, 2004

Introduction

Indigenous Peoples Survival Foundation was founded in 1979 by indigenous peoples to preserve the indigenous cultures of the Kalash and Khow tribes. These tribes have been living, secluded, for thousands of years in the Himalayas in north-west Pakistan and north-east Afghanistan. Its mission also includes advocating for the cultural preservation of the entire indigenous brotherhood around the world.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The purpose of the organization is to protect the human rights, natural resources, customs and traditions of the Kalash and Khow tribes and to further the Millennium Development Goals by providing targeted programmes at the community level that reduce hunger and poverty and by providing health and education. The aim of the organization is to expand sustainable projects to indigenous communities around the world.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Kalash and Khow people knew of the United Nations by name only. They did not know anything about the Charter of the United Nations or its goals. The tribes have never had any communication with the United Nations. Even their physical links with the rest of the world, such as roads and telephone communication, are cut off for six months of the year due to isolated geography and extreme weather conditions. The Foundation introduced these tribes to the goals of the United Nations, to which it created awareness of the tribes' plight. The Foundation educated the Kalash and Khow tribes to make them aware of their place within the United Nations system. The Foundation has attended meetings of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues since 1995 and has collected and disseminated the information it has learned in those meetings in order to educate the indigenous tribes in the mountains. It took many years for the Foundation to be able to educate the indigenous tribes, which has enabled the United Nations to successfully disseminate its information to these ancient peoples. The Foundation has provided food assistance, education and health programmes to deliver essential services to the indigenous tribes.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

There was no participation during the reporting period.

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

The Foundation is committed to ending poverty and hunger. Since 2010, it has offered daily meals from its soup kitchen in north-west Pakistan, and around 36,000 people receive its nutritional services every year. It is committed to health through its health transportation programme, which offers transportation to sick, destitute people to better facilities in larger cities. The Foundation delivers patients that need more advanced treatment to health facilities with better equipment. It is committed to education by providing training scholarships to students to help them find employment and improve their societies.

6. International Association “Znanie”

General, 1993

Introduction

International Association “Znanie” is one of the oldest associations of NGOs in the world. Members of the Association include scientific and educational organizations and unions, “Znanie” societies of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as educational NGOs from other countries, including Bulgaria, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Mongolia and the United States. In addition to consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the Association has accreditation with UNIDO and the Department of Public Information. For a long time, it has been a member of the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force. It also actively works in the Global Alliance for Information and Communications Technologies and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The main aims of the Association are to promote combined efforts and facilitate the intellectual and humanitarian activity of its members in order to increase the cultural and educational level of the population; to foster contacts between scientists and experts from different countries; to facilitate the international exchange of information; and to disseminate scientific, technical and humanitarian knowledge.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Association contributes to the implementation of the aims and ideals of the United Nations, particularly those concerning the dissemination of knowledge, the protection of human rights and the continuing of education in compliance with the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, representatives of the organization participated permanently at meetings and events organized by the United Nations and its bodies, including:

- Sessions of the General Assembly
- The sixty-second International Astronautical Congress, held in Cape Town, South Africa, in October 2011
- A conference on planetary defence, held in Bucharest in May 2011
- The Global Forum on Information and Communications Technologies and Innovation for Education, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in September 2009
- The fifty-second session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, held in Vienna in June 2009
- A meeting of the Global Innovation Forum for Education and Development, held in Yerevan in October 2008

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

During the reporting period, the organization actively cooperated with authoritative international organizations and cultural and educational centres of various countries.

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

Recognizing the Millennium Development Goals as the main framework of sustainable development, and in support of these Goals, the Association introduced in 2009 an international global monitoring aerospace system that is being developed to provide a well-timed warning to the international community about oncoming emergencies as well as natural and man-made disasters through a global system of monitoring and forecasting that uses the scientific and technical potential of Earth-based, air and space monitoring systems from all over the world, including the development and integration of navigation, telecommunication and information resources to solve global issues.

The project obtained wide support by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the Russian Foreign Ministry, the International Academy of Astronautics, and the Russian Space Agency.

The Association is a member of the Modern University for the Humanities in Moscow, which is one of the five largest universities in the world.

Also, the Association has introduced the concept of creating a world university to provide global coverage for world cooperation and an international division of labour through mutual exchange by importing and exporting knowledge from leading universities and professors around the world. The project is supported by the Russian State Research and Production Space Centre and the Russian Academy of Cosmonautics.

7. International Association for Democracy in Africa

Special, 1996

Introduction

The Association is a development organization committed to promoting participatory democracy, sustainable development and economic growth throughout

Africa. The Association maintains institutional linkages with universities in India and Africa.

The Association is a non-profit, non-governmental, non-partisan organization based in the Niger.

The mission of the Association is to implement culturally sensitive programmes designed to strengthen and enhance the fundamental principles of democracy, freedom and economic plurality throughout Africa, and to integrate emerging African democracies into the mainstream of the global economy, thus cultivating the pathway for peace and prosperity in Africa. In 1996, the Association was granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The Association is also registered with the United States Agency for International Development as a private voluntary organization. The Association collaborates with the African Union on programmes and projects.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and purposes of the organization include:

- Education and training in democracy and governance
- Elections and political processes
- Business development, trade and investment promotion
- Relocation of refugees in humanitarian and emergency relief programmes

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Association supports democratization and good governance through innovative programmes and projects that are aimed at solving Africa's sociopolitical and economic problems. The goal of the Association is to implement culturally based programmes designed to strengthen and enhance the fundamental principles of democracy, educate and increase citizen participation in the democratic process and encourage accountability and transparency in government. Africa is the least developed and most impoverished continent in the world, yet the United States trades more with Africa than with either the former Soviet Union or Eastern Europe. The average return on investment in African nations has consistently averaged 30 per cent over the last several years, higher than any other region. The various constraints that have discouraged private investments in many African countries, thereby impeding economic development, employment, income growth and adequate government revenue generation, are increasingly being overcome. Saving lives and reducing human suffering are the two essential missions of all humanitarian relief strategies. While relief commodities can supplement a humanitarian relief effort, immediate rehabilitation programmes yield the greatest and most productive results in making people self-sufficient.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization participated in the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York from 25 February to 7 March 2008; the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Copenhagen in December 2009; and the forty-fifth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against

Women, held in Geneva from 18 January to 5 February 2010. The organization also attended a regional workshop on monitoring the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, held in Kampala from 7 to 9 March 2011.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization participated in the third World Social Forum on Migration, held in Madrid from 11 to 13 September 2008. It also presented a joint statement with other Dutch NGOs on behalf of Africans and people of African descent at the Durban Review Conference, held from 20 to 24 April 2009 at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Secretary of the organization attended a conference on interacting in diversity for social cohesion, with a focus on frameworks and references to adapt the organization and competences of social services to the demands of a pluralist society, held in Strasbourg, France, on 7 and 8 December 2010. A special Association newsletter was produced and disseminated about the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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

The organization contributed to achieving Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, in Equator, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Africa and Suriname.

8. International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property

Special, 1960

Aims and purposes of the organization

The objective of the International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property is to improve and promote the protection of intellectual property on an international and national basis. It pursues this objective by working for the development, expansion and improvement of international and regional treaties and agreements and also of national laws relating to intellectual property. It operates by conducting studies of existing national laws and proposes measures to achieve the harmonization of these laws on an international basis. In this context, the Association has become concerned with issues concerning the enforcement of intellectual property rights. The statutes of the Association define the purposes and the means of their achievement as follows:

- (a) To promote the understanding of the necessity at both the national and international level for intellectual property protection in the broadest sense as well as the repression of unfair competition and to encourage further development of the protection of intellectual property;
- (b) To study and compare existing laws and proposed new laws, to improve them and to promote their harmonization;
- (c) To work for the development, expansion and improvement of international conventions and agreements concerning the protection of intellectual property.

The Association pursues its objectives by disseminating information, including preparing and distributing publications; organizing congresses and other meetings; and making representations to Governments and intergovernmental bodies, as well as national, regional and international organizations.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The relations between the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the European Patent Organization and the Association have been very close. It has observer status with WIPO and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During 2008 to 2011, the Association was represented at WIPO in its Standing Committee on the Law of Patents; Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks; sessions concerning the Patent Cooperation Treaty; and Inter-governmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. At the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants, the Association was represented in ordinary sessions. The Association submitted resolutions as well as opinions and views to WIPO and other relevant bodies in order to make its position public and to pursue its purpose of encouraging further the development of the protection of intellectual property rights. Every year, the Bureau of the Association, the Director General of WIPO and other representatives of WIPO meet for an annual coordination meeting in Geneva. These meetings are aimed at discussing urgent and important matters, exchanging views and strengthening relationships, which generally are very good. The mutual collaboration of WIPO and its officers with the Association and its Bureau members is excellent. One example of these good relations is a conference on client privileges, which was organized in cooperation with WIPO in Geneva in May 2008.

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

During the reporting period, the main task of the Association was to prepare a draft of a treaty providing for minimum standards on client privilege in intellectual property professional advice, as first proposed by the Association to WIPO in July 2005. The proposal, based on an Association resolution, was well received and supported by WIPO and national bodies. The WIPO Standing Committee on the Law of Patents adopted this item. The Association made five submissions on this item to WIPO in the past four years. WIPO representatives have been invited to present WIPO positions on various intellectual property issues at Association meetings every year.

9. International Federation of Hard of Hearing People

Special, 1996

Introduction

The International Federation of Hard of Hearing People is an umbrella organization established in 1977 as a registered non-profit organization. It consists primarily of member organizations for hard of hearing persons and has 44 members in 33 countries, representing 600 million to 700 million hard of hearing people worldwide.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Federation promotes greater understanding of hearing loss issues and access for hard of hearing people worldwide. It represents the interests of hard of hearing people and provides a platform for cooperation and information exchange among members, stakeholder organizations, Governments, the public and interested parties. During the reporting period, the geographical scope of the Federation expanded to include Africa, thus broadening its membership base.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A paper on accessibility guidelines for hard of hearing people in the United Nations was submitted at a special seminar in Geneva, held on 7 October 2010 at a meeting during the fourth session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Federation advocated for recognition that an enabling environment without barriers means providing acoustics that promote low reverberation and low noise backgrounds. The provision of assistive listening systems was recommended in conjunction with loudspeaker systems. It was also recommended to ensure that audible announcements are provided in a visual format. Text interpreting in public communication systems was recommended, along with the provision of resources to meet the needs of hard of hearing persons in transit systems and public places.

Captioning and assistive listening systems for hard of hearing persons was recommended in a unified cross-disability document submitted to the Development Policy Bureau on applying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to UNDP programming. An initial draft of the document discussed sign language interpreting, which does not meet the needs of most hard of hearing members.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The President of the Federation attended the second session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, held in New York, and spoke at a plenary session on 2 September 2009. Representatives of the Federation also attended the third session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, held in New York from 1 to 3 September 2010, and its fourth session, in New York from 7 to 9 September 2011. The Federation participated in a consultative civil society forum sponsored by the International Disability Alliance and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on 6 September 2011.

The Chair of the Federation attended a meeting of the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development, who reports yearly to the

Commission on the Standard Rules for the Equalization of Opportunities of Persons with Disabilities. The meeting was held on 9 September 2011 in New York.

The Federation was represented at the launch of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund on Human Rights on 8 December 2011 in New York. The Fund involves five United Nations agencies including UNDP, OHCHR, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, WHO and UNICEF. The Fund is intended to help States Members of the United Nations to implement the Convention, focusing on those most marginalized.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In June 2011, the President of the Federation participated in a panel discussion held in New York to mark the launch of the *World Report on Disability* by the World Health Organization and the World Bank. Information about the report was distributed to Federation networks to provide a blueprint for action.

The Federation maintained links with the WHO Committee on its International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health and with the Committee on World-Wide Hearing Care For Developing Countries.

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

Through its brochure, posted on its website in several different languages, the Federation promotes awareness about hearing loss and the need for proper hearing health care for all persons, which is in keeping with Goals 5 and 6 of the Millennium Development Goals, on improving maternal health and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

Additional information

The Federation is committed to working with the United Nations to improve hearing accessibility and awareness worldwide.

10. IT for Change

Special, 2008

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

IT for Change has established a public software centre to promote free and open-source software in public institutions with support from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). During the reporting period, the organization undertook a six-country, two-year small grants programme on gender and citizenship in the information society. It also carried out a project, with support from UNICEF, focusing on learning processes among out-of-school adolescent girls. It participated in a workshop on gender stereotypes organized by the Institute of Development Studies in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. With support from UNESCO, it made a film on transforming teacher education with public software, and worked with the education department of the state of Karnataka, India, on mainstreaming information and communications technology in education in a teacher-centric manner, stressing elements of

collaboration and local content. The organization has advised numerous government and non-government agencies on progressive models of e-governance, especially in the areas of community information and service centres. It trained a number of NGOs on how to use information and communications technology to improve their knowledge management and other organizational processes.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization organized workshops with various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in every annual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum during the reporting period. Its representatives were part of plenary meetings and numerous other workshops at these meetings.

Representatives of the organization were invited participants at annual meetings of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development during the reporting period, and were invited to make expert inputs at ministerial-level panels.

A representative of the organization participated in a seminar organized by OHCHR on implementing cultural rights, held in Geneva in February 2010.

In December 2010, the organization made contributions to open consultations of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs on enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet.

A representative of the organization attended a workshop of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on leading innovations for gender-responsible service delivery, held in Dar es Salaam in June 2011.

The organization participated in an online discussion on new media and democratic space, organized by the UNDP Asia-Pacific Regional Centre.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

A representative of the organization has been a special adviser to the Chair of the Internet Governance Forum.

Two representatives of the organization were members of the advisory council of the Global Alliance for Information and Communications Technologies and Development.

A representative of the organization was a member of a working group of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on improving the Internet Governance Forum.

The organization partnered with UNESCO and the regional government of Kerala, India, for an international workshop, held in May 2010, at which the “Kochi Declaration on Public Software” was adopted.

The organization was invited by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to provide expert inputs on the section on the media and information and communication technologies of the 2008 review process for the 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The organization was invited to an experts meeting on the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, organized by the Special Rapporteur on

the realization of economic, social and cultural rights in Geneva, and made contributions to the final report in December 2011.

A representative of the organization was invited to join an ad hoc group of experts of the Global Alliance on connectivity and access in the Asia-Pacific region for information and communication technology for development.

The organization contributed to various annual documents of the Global Alliance.

The organization contributed to a Global Alliance document on gender equality through information and communications technologies access and appropriation, with a focus on taking a rights-based approach.

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

The organization led a multi-country research study on information and communications technologies for participatory local development, as a part of a UNDP project on the use of information and communications technologies to foster participatory local development and support the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals with a focus on identifying options, challenges and ways forward. The organization has been running a project supported by UNDP on the use of information and communications technologies to empower women, within a large-scale programme to empower women by the Government of India.

11. Norwegian Refugee Council

Special, 2000

Introduction

The organization is an independent, humanitarian, non-profit NGO that provides assistance, protection and durable solutions to refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide. The majority of its approximately 3,000 staff members are national employees in projects in around 20 countries. All projects of the organization are run from a small and efficient administration in Oslo.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Through its programmes, the organization provides assistance to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of internally displaced persons, prevent further displacement and contribute to durable solutions. Through its advocacy, it strives to uphold rights and achieve lasting solutions. The organization's internal displacement monitoring centre in Geneva monitors and provides up-to-date information on all situations of conflict-induced internal displacement worldwide. Through its stand-by rosters, the organization provides expertise as a strategic partner to the United Nations, as well as to national and international actors.

In 2010, the organization finalized work on a global advocacy strategy for 2010 to 2012, which included a workplan to increase access to advocacy. Over the course of 2011, the organization re-examined its programme portfolio and field practice and its revised organization programme policy. It also decided to shift its focus from food distribution to more context-sensitive programming to promote livelihoods and self-

reliance, enhance technical capacity to manage water, sanitation and hygiene programmes and develop a more informed and flexible response to the needs of youth.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has held substantial policy dialogue with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons and many other United Nations actors. The organization is an active participant in inter-agency forums, such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Core Group on Humanitarian Space, the Global Protection Cluster and the Humanitarian Financing Group. The organization's internal displacement monitoring centre has access to inter-agency policymaking forums, permanent missions to the United Nations and human rights advocates. The centre is co-chair of a task force on learning and a high-level panel working group of the Global Protection Cluster. It is also a member of a child protection working group of the Global Protection Cluster and of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee task force on meeting humanitarian challenges in urban areas and sub-working group on gender and humanitarian action. As such, it shares best practices with actors involved in protection policies for internally displaced persons.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization is a member of Inter-Agency Standing Committee groups on humanitarian coordination, humanitarian financing, advisory boards for common humanitarian funds and emergency response funds, civil military relations, global cluster coordination and humanitarian space, and until recently the organization's Secretary General was a member of the advisory group of the Central Emergency Response Fund. The organization also prioritizes participation in protection, education and shelter clusters in emergency contexts. It co-chairs protection clusters in three countries and has attended events during high-level meetings of the General Assembly. The organization was active in the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies and in a working group on global minimum standards for education in emergencies. The organization has participated in a meeting of the Executive Committee of UNHCR and attended the humanitarian segment of annual Economic and Social Council meetings and side events. It has a key role within the NGO community on climate change and displacement concerns and is actively working on preparedness, resilience and disaster risk reduction concerns that affect displaced populations. The organization has organized conferences in Geneva, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference) and in Oslo, and has contributed to annual consultations for the Standby Partnerships Programme.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The United Nations is one of the organization's closest collaborating partners. One of its goals is to contribute towards the strengthening of the United Nations and its capacity and position to respond to emergency situations and humanitarian needs, including situations of displacement. During the reporting period, the organization worked in close cooperation with several United Nations agencies through the implementation of joint programmes, especially with UNHCR, the World Food Programme, UNICEF and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

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

During the reporting period, the organization contributed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals through its programme activities in around 20 countries, particularly Goal 1, through emergency food distribution and food security activities; Goal 2, through the provision of education in emergencies and early recovery to children and youth, teacher training and school construction; Goal 3, by ensuring gender mainstreaming in core competency policies; and Goal 7, through school and camp sanitary services.

12. Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra

Special, 2008

Introduction

The goal of the organization is to foster a just and sustainable society and empower indigenous groups, marginalized populations, women and children to claim their rights and entitlements. The organization has played a major role in pushing for sustainable development at the national and international levels. The main drivers have been campaigning groups, litigation and policy-level awareness for generations to build pressure for pro-people reforms.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In the area of universal education, the organization enrolled 1,047 out-of-school children in its rural primary schools in the Himalayas region for the nomadic indigenous community, as well as slave labourers and women rescued from human trafficking.

To promote gender equality and empower women, the organization established 50 empowerment centres in which 1,500 women took part in self-help groups on functional literacy in Uttarakhand, India. In terms of capacity-building for women, it instructed 14,380 women on gender equity in local governance through transformative women's leadership and citizenship in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh, India. A further 25,000 women were instructed on improved access to justice through legal literacy in the Indian states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Orissa and Rajasthan. The organization conducted rights-based training in Kathmandu, and gave awareness training to 1,089 women on sex selection and policy frameworks in Uttarakhand.

In an effort to end poverty and hunger, the organization trained 310 minority Muslim women in Haryana, India, and trained 200 marginalized women in self-help groups in Uttarakhand on skills development, financial inclusion and income generation. It mobilized 100 villages in Uttarakhand on transparency policy, legislation and laws as part of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, to address issues of poverty and hunger among the marginalized.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in a UNDP stakeholder workshop in Ahmadabad, India, on 10 and 11 October 2011. It also participated in the universal periodic

review regional consultation on human rights in India and a working group on human rights and the United Nations in New Delhi on 15 and 16 September 2011. The organization participated in a UNESCO international conference on women's literacy for inclusive and sustainable development, held in New Delhi from 8 to 10 September 2011.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In 2010, the organization partnered with UNDP in India as a resource agency and trained 2,100 women on strengthening women's social, economic and political empowerment in the Jaunpur, Mirzapur and Sant Ravidas Nagar districts of Uttar Pradesh. It also collaborated with UNDP as a resource agency for the development of a compendium on legal awareness, an information tool box on laws, statutory provisions and development programmes and schemes specific to Uttar Pradesh in 2010 and 2011.

From 2009 to 2011, as part of an initiative to provide access to justice in partnership with UNDP India, the organization trained and educated 9,000 people directly and 22,000 indirectly on the issues of women, castes and tribes through legal literacy in the states of Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. In 2010, it collaborated with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in India and the organization Women Power Connect to create awareness among 1,089 women on the issue of child sex ratio. It also participated in a study on local democracy in Asia and representation in decentralized governance, in collaboration with UNDP in Bangkok, and in a study with UNESCO to analyse the existing laws and policies at the national level in addressing poverty eradication within a human rights framework.

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

During the reporting period, the organization observed International Women's Day each year by honouring women who are successful in making their village an ideal village. It also observed World Environment Day each year by hosting a series of discussions on protecting the environment and encouraging each other to plant a tree. The organization celebrates International Literacy Day by commemorating volunteers and teachers for their exceptional work in the field of literacy. It celebrates International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and generates awareness about it. The organization's event to mark International Human Rights Day was attended by 200 participants, including human rights activists. It also contributed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals in India by enrolling 1,047 out-of-school children in schools, promoting gender equity and empowerment to 41,969 vulnerable women with instruction on participation in governance and increased access to justice, and engaged more than 600 women in gainful employment opportunities.

13. Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child

Special, 2004

Introduction

The Society for the Protection of the Rights of the Child is a national child rights organization founded in December 1992 to promote and protect child rights. It has offices in five cities, including a head office in Islamabad and provincial offices in Peshawar, Lahore, Quetta and Karachi, Pakistan.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The vision of the organization is a world in which children are valued and empowered and their rights promoted and protected. Its mission is to promote and protect the rights of children and to empower children using international standards through advocacy supported by research, awareness-raising, service delivery and human and institutional development. The approach of the organization includes:

- (a) Lobbying Government to make child rights a priority issue and develop legal and institutional mechanisms;
- (b) Promoting the accountability of State and society through media, conferences and periodic shadow reports to relevant international human rights committees;
- (c) Monitoring the situation regarding the rights of the child in the country through annual status reports on children's issues;
- (d) Conducting research to assess and highlight issues facing children and making recommendations;
- (e) Building the capacity of duty-bearers by training teachers, police and prison officials and holding information-sharing sessions with Government officials and parliamentarians;
- (f) Creating mass awareness and educating the public about the situation and rights of children through campaigns, information material and electronic media messages;
- (g) Networking with local and international organizations to build synergies and collaboration mechanisms between like-minded organizations;
- (h) Strengthening child-rights activists through support and training at the local level;
- (i) Empowering rights holders by providing forums for expression and participation to children in the form of child rights clubs and children's parliament;
- (j) Conducting strategic interventions for children, including providing legal aid and other support to improve living conditions in jails and to help child labourers and their families acquire birth registration and access to social services;
- (k) Providing emergency response and early recovery services, including basic humanitarian aid such as food and non-food items and safe play areas for children, as well as the rehabilitation of damaged schools and financial aid for seriously affected families.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2009, the organization, in collaboration with Save the Children UK, prepared and submitted a civil society report on Pakistan's compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

During the reporting period, the organization consistently observed World Day Against Child Labour, World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse and Universal Children's Day. It also participated in the Global Campaign for Education, for which it designed activities on the basis of yearly themes in order to draw attention to different concerns about education and to encourage Governments to work towards their "Education for All" goals.

Since 1997, the organization's flagship publication, *The State of Pakistan's Children*, has included reports on the situation of children in the country on a yearly basis. Following the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals, this publication has also addressed the country's progress towards meeting the Goals that are directly relevant to children.

In 2010 and 2011, the organization launched an advocacy campaign for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.

During the reporting period, the organization coordinated and worked on joint initiatives developed with the organization Defence for Children International, the office of the Special Representative on contemporary forms of slavery, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Child Rights Information Network and the organization Forum Asia.

The organization has published and disseminated the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to Pakistan's third and fourth periodic report.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

In 2009, the organization and Save the Children UK, on behalf of civil society, presented an alternative report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva.

The organization participated in the sixteenth session of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva in 2011.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization and UNICEF participate in each other's conferences and have collaborated in advocating child protection laws in the province of Balochistan, Pakistan.

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

The organization's annual report, *The State of Pakistan's Children*, highlights progress and constraints towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially those related to education and health.

In 2011, an information brochure on Pakistan's targets relating to the Millennium Development Goals and the current status was published and disseminated to various civil society organizations.

14. Sudan Council of Voluntary Agencies

Special, 2004

Introduction

The Sudan Council of Voluntary Agencies was established in 1979 in Khartoum. It started as a forum for NGOs then developed into a union of national NGOs, comprising in its membership more than 1,200 national NGOs registered in the Humanitarian Aid Commission in the Sudan.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and purposes of the organization are to:

- Promote and develop voluntary work in the Sudan
- Establish a forum for national NGOs in the Sudan through which they can exchange information and experiences
- Build the capacity of national NGOs in different fields of voluntary activities through training programmes
- Link national NGOs with related governmental bodies and with their counterparts at the regional and international levels
- Support and advocate for national NGO activities
- Network with national NGOs with similar activities

The organization has expanded its geographical range of operations to cover most areas and states in the Sudan in order to address major challenges and emerging issues in the country. Being an umbrella NGO, it has grown in size and nature during the past few years to accommodate additional new NGOs working in the Sudan. The organization has developed its capacity to respond to the new challenges created by the increase in membership and expansion of geographical locations. It has also expanded its range in the Sudan and strengthened its cooperation with international NGOs. Furthermore, the organization's advocacy role has been strengthened in such areas as humanitarian assistance, disaster management, human rights, democracy, good governance and popular participation.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization is currently engaged with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Sudan in the coordination and common services sector to ensure the provision of life-saving services to the vulnerable and needy population in the Sudan, especially Darfur, South Kordofan and the Blue Nile. The organization participated in monitoring the election in the Sudan in February 2010, in collaboration with the National Elections Commission and UNDP. It also contributed to the preparatory and monitoring processes of the referendum on South Sudan, held in January 2011. The organization participated in the activities of the

Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the African Union within the framework of cooperation with the United Nations and the international community to address the potential problems and risk of climate change, drought and desertification in Africa.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization attended the eighth and fourteenth regular sessions of the Human Rights Council, as well as its eleventh and sixteenth special sessions, held in Geneva, at which it advocated for human rights issues in the Sudan. It also attended an annual consultation with UNHCR, held in Geneva in 2008, to support refugees in the Sudan and the neighbouring countries. Delegates of the organization attended the fifty-third to the fifty-sixth sessions of the Committee on the Status of Women, held in New York. The Executive Director of the organization attended the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held in New York in 2009.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization maintains good relations through building a harmonious working relationship with specialized United Nations agencies in the Sudan. It conducted an awareness campaign on human rights issues in the Sudan in 2009 and 2010 in partnership with the Advisory Council for Human Rights. It also participated in national campaigns, activities and programmes to combat violence against women in the Sudan in 2011, in collaboration with UN-Women, UNFPA and the national unit for combating violence against women.

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

The organization endeavours to achieve the Millennium Development Goals through awareness-raising, forums and workshops among its members. It endeavours to achieve universal primary education through learning programmes targeting children in the Sudan. It has played an effective role in mobilizing national NGOs to respond to the challenges related to maternal mortality, and has participated in events held to mark World AIDS Day in Khartoum to combat the potential risk of AIDS. The organization also participated in events to mark International Day of Rural Women, to help sustain the issue of women's empowerment.

15. Voices of African Mothers

Special, 2008

Introduction

Voices of African Mothers is based in Africa and headquartered in Ghana. It also has an office in New York and an outreach office in the United Republic of Tanzania. It is a charitable organization, a development partner with EuropeAid, an organizing partner with the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development, a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations and a member of UNEP.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization wants women and future generations to possess a full range of educational opportunities, attain economic empowerment and become decision-making leaders in their various countries within the African continent.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization participated in the fifty-third to the fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and was appointed an organizing partner for the Women's Major Group to cover the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, leading to the Rio+20 Conference. In July 2009, the organization hosted and facilitated an international civil society forum at the University of Ghana in Accra, which attracted more than 600 participants, and published its summary and findings on the subject of the critical role of women in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization facilitated parallel events for the fifty-third to the fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, and for the eighteenth and nineteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development. It published a discussion paper containing a summary of the findings of the Rio+20 Conference, which also included future steps by members of the organization. It submitted a discussion paper from the Regional Implementation Meeting for the Africa Region, held in Ethiopia, to incorporate into the report of the Secretary-General on the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization collaborated with other women's major groups on women's issues in preparation for the Rio+20 Conference, in particular the views of grass-roots women from Africa.

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

The major outreach programmes of the organization are framed around the Millennium Development Goals, including an academy for girls and a school, farming initiatives, business education, a medical clinic and environmental materials.
