



Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
12 July 2019
English
Original: French

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

2020 regular session

20–29 January and 7 February 2020

Quadrennial reports for the period 2015–2018 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
1. African Association of Education for Development	2
2. Espace Afrique international	3
3. Univers de solidarité et de développement	5
4. Villages unis	6
5. Woïyo Kondeye	9

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



1. African Association of Education for Development

Special, 1983

Introduction

The African Association of Education for Development (ASAFED) is a non-governmental organization in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 1983.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and purposes of ASAFED are:

- To promote the rights to sustainable development and access to education for all;
- To combat dependency on external aid;
- To promote public health and the protection of human rights, in particular the rights of women and children;
- To promote education for peace and the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, ASAFED addressed the issue of birth control in Africa. As a reminder, there was a tradition in several parts of Africa, particularly Central Africa, of prohibiting sexual intercourse for breastfeeding women. In some cases, breastfeeding lasted 12 to 15 months, enabling women to space out their pregnancies. With recent rapid urbanization and population mobility, it has become very difficult to practise this age-old tradition. The Association therefore started work on the issue of birth control.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the ASAFED participated in the twenty-seventh through thirty-eighth sessions of the Human Rights Council. It also participated in the working group for the universal periodic review of all African countries during that period.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

These days, controversies surrounding migration issues are shaping the policy choices made by many States in the global community. That is why ASAFED has embarked on a campaign to promote the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, of 28 July 1951; the Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, of 10 September 1969; and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, of 18 December 1990.

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

The high-level summit held in New York on 25 September 2015 for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was an important event for the entire global community. It represented a paradigm shift on these issues. ASAFED

welcomes the 17 Goals set at the summit. Most of the Goals coincide with the Association's objectives. We work for access to quality education for all and quality learning under equitable conditions throughout life. We promote support for healthy lives and well-being at all ages.

We organize conferences on access to drinking water, sanitation and sustainable water resource management. We work for food security, improved nutrition and the promotion of sustainable agriculture. We are committed to gender equality and support the empowerment of women and girls. ASAFED supports the African position on these topics: economic and structural transformation, inclusive growth, and science, technology and innovation; people-centred development; environmental sustainability, natural resource management and disaster risk management; peace and security; and financing and partnerships.

ASAFED condemns harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, ritual crimes and discrimination against persons with albinism. In this respect, we promote the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, in particular its article 29, paragraph 7.

2. Espace Afrique international

Special, 2007

Introduction

Espace Afrique international is a Swiss non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 2007. The present quadrennial report, the third of its kind, covers the period from 2015 to 2018 and is aimed at providing an overview and assessment of our organization's contribution to the work of the United Nations and our collective efforts for a better world.

Aims and purposes of the organization

In the area of sustainable development:

- To contribute to the promotion, dissemination and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through specific activities on the ground, including in education, health, the empowerment of women and young girls, gender equality and peace processes.

In the area of migration:

- To contribute to making the process of migration more dignified and accountable;
- To provide support for young people to remain on their land;
- To work for the integration of migrants and their effective enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights;
- To organize the African diaspora with a view to its participation in the continent's development;
- To support and encourage migrants in the process of assisted return to their countries of origin.

On minority issues:

- To advocate for the rights of persons with albinism;
- To raise awareness about albinism and the issues it entails;

- To provide a space for persons with albinism to express themselves, among others.

Significant changes in the organization

Over the past four years, our organization has been particularly involved in issues relating to people of African descent (right of return of persons of African descent and active participation in the International Decade for People of African Descent proclaimed by the United Nations).

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In the area of sustainable development:

- 15 June 2015: Espace Afrique international and the global coalition of non-governmental organizations for the Sustainable Development Goals held a third international symposium, at the United Nations Office at Geneva, on the theme of moving towards the post-2015 period: a new paradigm for happiness for all through reduced consumption;
- 21 September 2016: Espace Afrique international held a round table, at the United Nations Office at Geneva, on the theme of women's rights in Africa: challenges and opportunities;
- 23 March 2017: Espace Afrique international held an international conference, at the United Nations Office at Geneva, on the theme of civil society's contribution to the peace process in Colombia.

In the area of migration:

- Participated in the annual Europe-Africa dialogues on migration and development;
- Participated in global forums on migration and development;
- 27 June 2016: organized a panel discussion at the United Nations Office at Geneva on the theme of migration and development: perspectives for African youth;
- Contributed to the creation of the Africa-Europe Diaspora Development Platform.

On minority issues:

- Commemoration of International Albinism Awareness Day;
- 31 October 2016: organized a round table on the universal periodic review.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Our organization participated in:

- Various sessions of the Human Rights Council (from the twenty-ninth through the thirty-ninth);
- Annual follow-up conferences to the World Summit on the Information Society (International Telecommunication Union);
- Annual sessions of the World Health Organization (WHO);
- Meetings of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

- Office of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism: cooperated closely with the Independent Expert and her office in the commemoration of International Albinism Awareness Day;
- Human Rights Council: contributed to the proceedings of the Council (statements, organization of side events);
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: jointly organized, in Addis Ababa, a panel discussion on capacity-building for national human rights institutions;
- From September 2016 to December 2018, participated in the various consultations for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

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

- On the ground, Espace Afrique international has conducted several initiatives to raise awareness and provide support in the fields of education, health and women's rights in Senegal, Mali, Côte d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of the Congo;
- Reorientation of the priorities of the coalition of non-governmental organizations from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals;
- Advocacy and networking with regard to the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals with a view to taking efficient action.

3. Univers de solidarité et de développement

Special, 2011

Introduction

From 2015 to 2018, Univers de solidarité et de développement (UNI.SOL.D) launched projects for the most disadvantaged social groups in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals. The projects have greatly benefited those groups.

Aims and purposes of the organization

- Aim: to fight poverty by improving the standard of living of the population.
- Purposes: agropastoral activities; reforestation; cooperative initiatives; solidarity and connections between young people around the world; education; science; culture; sports; leisure; helping young people to structure their working life from an early age; combating poverty and unemployment; popular education; preventing sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS; assistance to the elderly and the underprivileged; enabling women to create income-generating activities for themselves.

Significant changes in the organization

Obtaining special consultative status has increased the size and credibility of the Association.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

UNI.SOL.D relays information received from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service and NGO News, among others, to our partners and our beneficiary communities. Our partnerships with the non-governmental organizations HelpAge International and International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse enable us to relay the actions advocated by the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing, where those organizations are represented. UNI.SOL.D promotes the Sustainable Development Goals and raises awareness to counter ageism.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During the period 2015-2018, the organization's representatives were unable to participate in person in United Nations meetings owing to a severe lack of travel funding.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

UNI.SOL.D has excellent relations with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through the Ministry of Social Action, Advancement of Women and Literacy of Togo. In this regard, the organization has been able to utilize a number of reading and math manuals and participate in adult education offered by UNESCO through the Ministry.

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

1. Literacy project: to combat illiteracy, UNI.SOL.D has set up a literacy project for 100 students in the rural commune of Kati with funding from the Maagdenhuis Foundation, which is based in the Netherlands, and for 109 students in the urban commune of Kpalimé, with support from Fédération Léo Lagrange Togo;
2. School construction project: a project to build classrooms was undertaken at the Kpalimé Nogo public elementary school in Togo, with funding from Japan through the Embassy of Japan for Togo, based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. A report on the signing ceremony for the donor contract with Japan can be found at <http://togopresse.tg/togo-le-japon-finance-trois-forages-et-une-ecole-a-hauteur-de-92-millions-de-fcfa/>.
3. Activities for older persons: in 2017, UNI.SOL.D provided health care to 57 older persons and clothing to 81. Beyond the provision of care, the organization's team met with the staff of the National Directorate for Older Persons to enhance cooperation with the Government of Togo and advocate for the Government to sign the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa. In addition, funds from HelpAge International have enabled a project entitled "Older people consultation - Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, third review (MIPAA 15+)" to be undertaken. The project allowed for an assessment of the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action.

4. Villages unis**Special, 2015****Introduction**

Villages unis is a non-governmental organization under Swiss law, established in 2011 and based in Geneva. It has consultative status with the Economic and Social

Council and is recognized as a non-profit organization by the canton of Geneva and the Swiss Confederation. It also has observer status with the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Villages unis is involved in development cooperation and humanitarian aid to countries in the global South. It has the following aims and purposes:

- To strengthen peoples' autonomy in accordance with the recommendations for sustainable development contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- To contribute to humanitarian affairs and initiatives for the promotion of human rights;
- To enhance and support agriculture, food, the provision of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene;
- To contribute to education for all and the protection of children, indigenous peoples and public and community health;
- To prevent and fight against diseases such as AIDS, sickle cell anaemia, malaria, typhoid fever and other endemic diseases.

Significant changes in the organization

Two major changes have occurred in the organization over the past four years.

The first change is linked to the very fact that our organization has obtained consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Indeed, that status has provided our organization with many opportunities, including international visibility, a space to advocate for local issues and a partnership network (inter alia with Governments, civil society and the private sector) that promotes human rights and sustainable development, which has made our efforts more incisive and effective.

The second change is related to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The organization has thus adapted its work and philosophy to the requirements of the Agenda.

Following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, the organization has adapted to the requirements of the 2030 Agenda by, for example, providing opportunities for young people through internships at the United Nations over the past four years, to enable them to learn about the United Nations as an institution, to become familiar with the challenges and issues of our planet and to make a contribution as tomorrow's leaders.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Over four years, our organization has contributed to the work of the United Nations through the following, among others.

1. It has organized side events at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on themes of priority importance to the United Nations (such as migration, peace, water and sanitation, albinism, indigenous peoples, hazardous waste and traditional medicine). For example, at the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council, our organization held several side events on the following themes and dates:

- Albinism, 13 June 2016: celebrating diversity, promoting inclusion, protecting our rights;

- Sustainable Development Goals, 22 June 2016: the 2030 Agenda for Africa: obstacles to achievements, possible approaches;
- Indigenous peoples and the 2030 Agenda, 24 June 2016: the right and access to public health for indigenous peoples in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Migration, 29 June 2016: the migration crisis in Europe: issues and challenges.

At the thirty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council, our organization held a side event on 8 March 2017 on the right to the environment: hazardous waste in Africa.

2. The organization contributed to Human Rights Council sessions through oral statements (presenting positions and engaging in advocacy, *inter alia*); for example, it made a statement on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food in the Human Rights Council at its thirty-first session. It also addressed the Human Rights Council at its thirty-ninth session on the subject of peasants and workers in rural areas and many other subjects.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Since obtaining its special consultative status, our organization has actively participated in most United Nations meetings:

- Human Rights Council: our organization participated in all sessions from the twenty-ninth to the fortieth session;
- Annual World Summit on the Information Society Forum of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU): our organization has participated in the various annual ITU forums;
- Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore: over the past four years, our organization has participated in the annual meetings of the Committee;

More generally, the organization has participated in many meetings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), WHO, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), among others.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In June 2016, Villages unis celebrated International Albinism Awareness Day by organizing, together with its civil society partners and the Office of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, a conference on the margins of the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council.

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

The organization has led several initiatives in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

In the field of education, over four years, the organization has obtained, through its advocacy for education, computer equipment from its partners for use in schools in countries of the South (Togo, Benin and Burkina Faso).

In the field of health, a mission conducted in 2017 in Togo supported community health projects, provided financial support to hospitals in Togo and financed screening and awareness campaigns on Lassa fever, HIV/AIDS, typhoid and yellow fever, measles and school and health hygiene, among others.

With regard to the fight against extreme poverty and hunger, the organization has set up a food and livestock farming project and a technical training centre in Togo for farmers, horticulturists and market gardeners.

In the area of gender equality and women's empowerment, the organization has carried out awareness-raising and education campaigns in villages in Togo.

It should be noted that the organization has been involved in the design and implementation of the pilot phases of projects on drinking water and sanitation in villages in Togo.

Over four years, the organization has carried out several initiatives in the field of human rights, sustainable development and human well-being. Some of these initiatives have brought about positive change in people's lives, both in the long term and on a day-to-day basis. In other areas, major challenges remain to be addressed.

5. Woïyo Kondeye

Special, 2007

Introduction

A non-profit, non-governmental organization, Woïyo Kondeye, which means "space for reflection and mutual aid with women" in the Songhoï language, was established on 10 June 1994 and approved on 20 October 1994 under No. 509/ MAT-S-DNAT, following the observation that Malian women, especially those living in rural areas, are underinformed, overburdened, underequipped, trained poorly or not at all and severely lacking in income in an environment that is very hostile to their efforts for advancement. However, they play a significant role in the country's socioeconomic development. For more than 15 years, Woïyo Kondeye has supported the grassroots work of women and communities to help women flourish and improve their living conditions.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's central mission is to support work by women on the ground and their communities in terms of information, training, communication and grassroots initiatives. The aim is to provide advice and technical support to women and their communities in the study, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives.

Significant changes in the organization

To improve its internal governance, the organization has set up a board of directors in addition to its executive secretariat.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization works with several United Nations agencies and Save the Children on gender-based violence in conflict areas. Alongside more than 10 women's groups, UNICEF and the World Food Programme, it contributes to school-based nutritional education for children in the north, particularly in the Niafunké district (Timbuktu region). It also participates in the climate network in the context of climate change and is interested in the issue of gender and climate change. To that end, it

introduces rural women in the village of Korokoro and Mandé (Koulikoro region), where women chop wood to improve their incomes, to agricultural techniques and protection measures for endangered species such as shea, African locust bean and baobab. It works with the Ministry for Women in promoting a gender approach and, in this respect, provides village communities with information and training on the national gender policy. Some of its members participate in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women. It is also a member of the human rights group, which it endeavours to promote at the grassroots level through the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and Security Council resolutions [1325 \(2000\)](#), [1820 \(2008\)](#) and [1880 \(2009\)](#), in connection with the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Secretary-General of the organization participated in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-second session, in New York.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

As part of the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali emanating from the Algiers process, the organization has led initiatives related to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: a school cafeteria campaign to combat poverty, malnutrition and food insecurity and allow students in conflict areas to remain in school; the enhancement of women's community capacities through applied literacy and citizen information programmes to increase women's empowerment; and the establishment of cooperatives for women's economic empowerment.

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

Several projects have been implemented:

1. Capacity-building for rural women in Korokoro (Koulikoro region) on the harmful effects of pesticides and on composting and agroecological techniques;
2. A project in Bamako and eight regions on breaking the silence, lifting taboos, and better information on gender-based violence in West Africa;
3. Distribution of free grain in two communes in the Niafounké district and in five villages in the rural commune of Mandé;
4. Market gardening project on producing and consuming without chemicals and without greenhouse gas emissions in five villages in the commune of Mandé (Kati district) and Timbuktu.