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## Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

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#### Note by the Secretary-General\*

#### Addendum

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\* The present document was submitted late because the exchange of correspondence with non-governmental organizations to obtain clear and complete applications took longer than anticipated.

## 1. Canadian Environmental Network

(Special consultative status granted in 1997)

The Canadian Environmental Network (CEN) obtained Special Consultative Status to the Economic and Social Council in 1997, and this is the CEN's first quadrennial report, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31. It briefly summarizes the participation by CEN representatives in conferences and meetings of Economic and Social Council subsidiary bodies, related initiatives and other international forums. As well, it outlines the main subject areas where the CEN is actively involved in substantive activities related to initiatives under the mandate of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and its subsidiary and related bodies.

The CEN is a network of environment groups from across Canada. CEN facilitates communication among environmental groups and between environmental groups, Governments, aboriginal groups, international bodies and other non-governmental organizations (including development, labour, business and faith groups). The CEN helps to facilitate consensus and joint action between environmental groups on common issues through environmental caucuses, consisting of anywhere between 50 and 250 groups with shared interests in a particular issue. The CEN supports 12 affiliate networks, including provincial networks and the First Nations Environmental Network. The CEN was formed in 1977, and after a thorough membership review boasts over 600 members. The CEN's international programmes are coordinated through the International Capacity Building Project, which facilitates North-South partnerships across a wide variety of issues related to sustainable development. The CEN is a member of the Environmental Liaison Centre International.

### **Participation in United Nations meetings**

**Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD):** CEN representatives have attended each CSD meeting during the period 1997-2001, including CSD5, 6, 7 and 8. The numbers of CEN representatives attending have ranged as high as 10. CEN representatives also attended CSD intersessional meetings in February 1997 and 1999.

**Rio+5:** Ten CEN representatives attended Rio+5 in New York City in June 1997.

**Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPS) negotiations:** A CEN representative attended each of the International Negotiating Committee (INC) meetings, including INC1 (Montreal, June-July 1998), INC2 (Nairobi, January 1999), INC3 (Geneva, September 1999), INC4 (Bonn, March 2000) and INC5 (Johannesburg, December 2000).

**Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF):** A representative of the CEN attended the final meeting of the IPF in New York in February 1997.

**Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF):** A representative of the CEN attended three meetings of the IFF: IFF2 (Geneva, August-September 1998), IFF3 (Geneva, May 1999) and IFF4 (New York, January-February 2000). At the latter meeting the representative gave an oral statement on the subject of Canadian NGO views on a legally binding instrument for forests. In addition to attending these formal negotiations, CEN representatives attended a number of intersessional meetings,

including the workshop on Addressing the Underlying Causes of Deforestation and Forest Degradation (San Jose, January 1999) and two meetings of the Costa Rica-Canada Initiative (Mexico City, November 1999 and Ottawa, December 1999).

**Biosafety Protocol:** A representative of the CEN attended two meetings of the Biosafety Protocol negotiations, in Cartagena in February 1999 and in Montreal in February 2000.

#### **Other relevant activities in implementing United Nations resolutions**

The CEN supports 12 national issues-based caucuses that carry out a variety of activities in support of national sustainable development objectives, including holding workshops, drafting position papers, education and outreach. Several caucuses have had direct involvement in the national implementation of international sustainable development commitments, including the atmosphere/energy, biodiversity, biotechnology, environmental education, forest, health and sustainability, mining, toxics and water caucuses.

#### **Other examples of consultative and substantive activities**

The CEN's major vehicle for contributing substantively towards implementation of international sustainable development initiatives is its International Capacity Building Project, which facilitates field-level partnerships between NGO members of the CEN and NGOs in developing countries. Projects related to alternative energy, climate change mitigation, forestry, forest conservation, agriculture, desertification and water conservation have been carried out in Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Grenada, Jamaica, India, Indonesia and Cameroon. Furthermore, a Youth Sustainability Project in 1997 brought 16 interns to Latin America to work on sustainability projects with Southern NGO partners.

The CEN has also been active in a wide range of international networks and initiatives. In addition to its ongoing membership in the Environmental Liaison Centre International, CEN representatives have participated in the following:

- CSD-NGO Steering Committee
- Ecovision meeting in Bonn, November 1997, featuring representatives from 13 international NGO networks
- International Secretariat for Water meeting, Montreal, May 1999
- World Bank forest policy review consultation, Toronto, July 1999
- Workshop on Sustainable Development and Non-Ferrous Mining Practices and Policies, London, November-December 1999
- World Mines Ministries Forum (with World Bank and UNEP), Toronto, March 2000

In June 1997 the CEN hosted a workshop in Toronto on the current status of the Convention to Combat Desertification, with representation from UNEP.

## 2. CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Special consultative status granted in 1997

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation is an international non-profit organization formed in 1993. Its mission is to strengthen citizen action and civil society throughout the world. CIVICUS works with its network of members and partners to mobilize citizens to improve their communities and act collectively in the public interest. CIVICUS' vision is a worldwide community of informed, inspired, committed people engaged in confronting the challenges facing humanity. The Alliance's special purpose is to help nurture the foundation, growth, protection, and the provision of resources for citizen action throughout the world and especially in areas where participatory democracy, freedom of association of citizens and funds for public benefit are threatened.

### 1997

- Convening, i.e. bringing people together for a public purpose, is an essential function of CIVICUS as it works to increase the visibility and effectiveness of civil society organizations worldwide. The central convening event for 1997 was the Second CIVICUS World Assembly held in Budapest, 23-26 September. The Assembly drew more than 500 CIVICUS members and friends from 76 countries and six continents. The organizers and participants deliberated on the impact that globalization trends will have on civil society and set the organization's priorities leading up to the year 2000. CIVICUS took part in other significant convening efforts in 1997:
- CIVICUS and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies co-sponsored a five-session meeting on the International Conference on Governance for Sustainable Growth and Equity organized by the United Nations Development Programme.
- CIVICUS conducted a panel of its members at the International Development Conference in Washington, D.C., in January 1997.
- The CIVICUS executive director delivered a keynote address at several key international events, including the European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Copenhagen.
- The CIVICUS executive director took part in a panel on "Governance Structures for the 21st Century" at the State of the World Forum convened by the Global Commission to Fund the United Nations.
- The CIVICUS executive director chaired a special Salzburg Seminar session on the long-term sustainability of the third sector in Eastern Europe and the newly independent States.

By 1997, CIVICUS has come a long way in less than five years; its growth reflects the excitement generated by the dawning of a new age of global civil society.

## 1998

In 1998, the CIVICUS programme was implemented through a four-part strategy:

### Building a Global Presence

CIVICUS expanded its presence in every region: in Asia and the Pacific, an office was established in Sydney, Australia; in the Latin America and Caribbean region, a regional Executive Secretariat was launched in Colombia; assemblies and meetings involving hundreds of CIVICUS members and civil society leaders were held in Bangkok (Asia-Pacific), Turin (Europe), Buenos Aires (Latin America and Caribbean), and Denver (North America). By the end of 1998, CIVICUS had more than 460 organizational and individual members in 86 countries.

### Convening

CIVICUS participated with its civil society partners in co-sponsoring important national and international gatherings, such as the International Development Conference's "Global Meeting of Generations", "Forging Partnerships Across Sectors" co-sponsored with the Hitachi Foundation, and the Loccum Evangelical Academy meeting on "Civil Society Relationships between NGOs and Foundations".

### Communication and information

CIVICUS expanded its use of the Internet as a key communication tool. Our global web site was upgraded; a free weekly e-mail newsletter — e-CIVICUS — was launched in partnership with Prodder in South Africa; CIVICUS in Latin America unveiled a Spanish-language web site.

### Advocacy

The "Corporate Engagement Project" was launched, a multi-year initiative to broaden the business sector's involvement with civil society and social development. In a related initiative, CIVICUS joined forces with the World Bank and the Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum as co-convenors of the Knowledge Resource Group of the Business Partners for Development Initiative.

Our relationship with the United Nations continued to strengthen and expand. As an NGO in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, CIVICUS represented the interests of the sector before the United Nations in the New Millennium Project Task Team.

## 1999

In 1999, CIVICUS celebrated its fifth/sixth anniversary. During that year, CIVICUS promoted the idea that every citizen, every human being, should be considered the basic building block of civil society.

- CIVICUS supported the Commonwealth Foundation in initiating the Civil Society in the New Millennium Project to identify ways to strengthen, promote, encourage and catalyse the wide variety of initiatives taken by citizens to address issues and problems in their everyday lives.
- With the support of CIVICUS and the Aga Khan Foundation, CIVICUS member Richard Holloway turned the strategies of the 1997 CIVICUS book

*Sustaining Civil Society* into training materials applicable to civil society organizations.

- Building on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in June 1999 CIVICUS launched a two-year initiative to develop a Global Citizen Commitment, which seeks to articulate the most important rights and responsibilities of citizens and what they can do with others to improve their communities and society.
- In 1999 CIVICUS began planning for two new citizen participation initiatives: (1) enriching the leadership role of women in civil society, (2) promoting the participation of civil society organizations in poverty eradication.
- The CIVICUS World Assembly held in Manila, Philippines on 21-24 September 1999 involved over 600 participants from over 75 countries. One of the major streams of the conference was “Considerations in Business and Community Engagement”.

## **2000**

2000 was a year of dual focus for CIVICUS. On the one hand, we launched some of our most innovative and potentially far-reaching initiatives aimed at building and supporting civil society throughout the world. On the other, the year was a time of profound transition and stocktaking, as we engaged in a deep and systematic examination of our programmes, our institutional structure, our leadership and our overall direction for the first few years of the new millennium.

In 2000, CIVICUS continued its programmes aimed at expanding the participation of, in particular, women, youth and the poor.

CIVICUS also worked to mainstream its relationships with a broad range of public and private sector organizations. This took many forms: in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, CIVICUS launched the pilot phase of the Index of Civil Society; in partnership with UNIFEM, CIVICUS established a Gender Institutional Learning Network to promote the leadership role of women in civil society.

In 2000, emphasis was placed on efforts designed to bridge the traditional divide between civil society activists and organizers on the one hand, and academic scholars and researchers on the other. How can important scholarly research on civil society and its many concerns — from civic engagement and education to poverty eradication and the impact of globalization — be made more relevant and useful to civil society practitioners? How do we foster dialogue between those two groups to help break down the intellectual and practical divide between activists and thinkers? How can we develop durable networks that link practitioners and scholars and that enhance the work of both?

Led by its Board of Directors, CIVICUS undertook two major initiatives: first, a thorough review of our strategy to “regionalize” CIVICUS and second, the development of the new three-year Strategic Plan. While neither activity was widely known to the general public, each in its own way was a cornerstone of our work in 2000, and each will have significant impacts on the direction and the programme of CIVICUS in the coming years.

### 3. International Association of University Presidents

Special consultative status granted in 1993

The International Association of University President (IAUP), founded in 1964 in Oxford, England, is an association of university chief executive officers from higher education institutions around the world. The primary purpose of IAUP is to strengthen the international mission and quality of education of IAUP institutions in an increasingly interdependent world and to promote global awareness and competence, as well as peace and international understanding through education.

IAUP is an association of more than 600 members from over 100 countries, free of political and partisan interest. It offers a regular forum for higher education leaders and institutions to identify and discuss major issues and challenges in a global and cross-cultural context. In addition to holding a world conference every three years, IAUP also conducts numerous seminars, conferences and collaborations through its nine regional councils. Regional councils include the African Council, North American Council, North Asian Council, Latin American Council, South East Asian Council, South Pacific Council, and South West Asia-North Africa Councils.

The main representative of IAUP to the United Nations in New York is James R. Roach, Chair of the North American Council of IAUP. Dr. Roach attends the Department of Public Information/NGO annual conferences and other appropriate programmes and conferences sponsored by the United Nations. He has worked through various United Nations officials to strengthen relations between IAUP and the United Nations in promoting international cooperation, educational opportunities, and peace initiatives. The IAUP also is represented at United Nations offices in Geneva and Vienna.

IAUP also works closely with the United Nations through the IAUP/United Nations Commission on Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace. The Chair of this Commission is Dr. L. Eudora Pettigrew, a member of IAUP. As Commission Chair, Dr. Pettigrew has been very active in promoting disarmament education, conflict resolution and peace through programmes, academic coursework, workshops and symposiums worldwide.

In July 1996, the Secretary-General of UNESCO, Dr. Federico Mayor, provided IAUP with a grant of \$40,000 to support the work of the Commission on Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace. In conjunction with this grant, the IAUP/United Nations Commission co-sponsored the following conferences: "The University Role in Establishing World Peace", Aswan, Egypt, February 1997; "Nurturing a Culture of Peace: The Role of Schools", Philippine Normal University, spring 1997; "Peace and Security", Bicol University Institute for Peace and Security, spring 1997; "Institutions of Higher Education Advancing the Cause of World Peace", Cape Town, South Africa, February 1998.

In 1998 at the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education, the IAUP/United Nations Commission conducted a major thematic debate on the culture of peace. Dr. Pettigrew gave an address on the role of universities in disarmament education, conflict resolution and peace. Other IAUP participants at the conference included Dr. Donald Gerth, Dr. Maurice Harari, and Dr. James Roach. IAUP is now an active member of the UNESCO World Conference Follow-Up Committee.

In October 1999, Dr. Pettigrew presented the paper, "The Price of Peace: The Cost of Peace", at the Seoul International Conference of NGOs for the NGO Economists Allies Against the Arms Race Session, held in conjunction with the IAUP conference sponsored by Dr. Young Seek Choue, Chair of the IAUP High Commission for Peace.

The Commission received \$15,000 in funding from UNESCO for 2000-2001, and with the additional grant of \$20,000 from IAUP, the Commission will continue to support programmes that address disarmament education, conflict resolution and peace. A workshop on school violence was conducted at Western Connecticut State University in June of 2000. A second workshop is planned for April 2001, at the Universidad La Salle in Mexico City; and a third workshop is proposed for the United Nations Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Matters scheduled for fall 2001 in South Africa.

In addition to the programmes and conferences conducted and supported by IAUP and the IAUP/United Nations Commission, numerous papers and publications have been gathered and disseminated, including an IAUP/United Nations Commission Newsletter and a book entitled "*Conflict Resolution: The Woman's Role in Our World*". IAUP publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Lux Mundi*, which includes articles on IAUP activities and information on upcoming conferences and symposiums. *Lux Mundi* is distributed to IAUP members around the world.

IAUP/United Nations Commission on Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace meets in the spring and fall of each year at the United Nations with support from the United Nations Secretariat Department for Disarmament Affairs. In addition to continuing its programme and conference activities, in the upcoming year the Commission hopes to participate in a study on disarmament and non-proliferation education supported by the United Nations General Assembly.

Through its worldwide membership and its aggressive agenda of conferences and meetings, IAUP continues to strengthen its international mission to promote global awareness and competence, as well as peace and international understanding through education.

#### **4. International Council on Management of Population Programmes**

Special consultative status granted in 1985

##### **Introduction**

The International Council on Management of Population Programmes (ICOMP) is a non-governmental organization set up by heads of population- and family-planning programmes and selected management institutes in developing countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America and the Caribbean. Currently, it has 53 members. ICOMP's mission is to contribute towards achieving excellence in the management of quality population programmes at the country, regional and international levels. The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD 1994) broadly defined population programmes as: (a) reproductive health programmes, including family planning; and (b) those establishing linkages between population and sustainable development. Thus, the



major thrust of ICOMP during the period 1997-2000 has been to accelerate the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action. Towards this objective, it has received funding support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA), David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Ford Foundation, Government of Norway, MacArthur Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). ICOMP members also made contributions. The budget for each of these four years is about US\$1 million.

### **Participation**

ICOMP has attended many meetings organized by United Nations bodies. These include the ICPD+5 Review in The Hague in February 1999, the UNFPA Consultation on civil society participation in Dhaka in July 1998, and the special session of the United Nations General Assembly in June 1999. In addition, on behalf of ICOMP, Professor Dr. J. Hanns Pichler regularly attends meetings of the NGO Committee on the Family.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies**

ICOMP has received support from and collaborated with UNFPA for a variety of activities. These include the following projects: (a) Action Research project on Improving Quality of Care in India, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam; (b) Sharing Experiences on Institutionalizing Sustainable Reproductive Health Programmes; (c) Strengthening the Leadership Capability of Reproductive Health Programme Managers and Youth Leaders in Asia; and (d) Promoting NGO activities to accelerate implementation of ICPD Programme of Action. UNFPA has also supported the sharing of experiences through ICOMP's quarterly newsletter "Feedback", its journal "Innovations" and its web site.

ICOMP has also collaborated with WHO throughout this period to carry out introduction research for contraceptive technologies and strategic assessment of reproductive health programmes.

### **Other relevant activities**

ICOMP has identified four priority areas of work: reproductive health, adolescent reproductive health, enhancing gender responsiveness and improving quality of care; and improving effectiveness of NGO and civil society organizations. The activities in these areas include leadership and management development, enhancing gender effectiveness, programme development, promoting policy dialogue and experience sharing. Each of these activities comprises a mix of training, action research, technical assistance and sharing of experiences.

Developing training packages and promoting their use has been the major activity for leadership and management development. ICOMP's training package on "Improving Quality of Care", developed by ICOMP with UNFPA support, has been adapted and used by the International Training Program of National Family Planning Coordinating Board (Badan Koordinasi Keluarga Buencana Nasional, Indonesia) and the Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur, India. The Nanjing College of Population Programme Management is currently adapting it for use in China. With support from UNFPA, country teams from seven countries participated

in a workshop on managerial leadership for adolescent reproductive health, and were subsequently supported for follow-up country-level activities. In addition to the promotion of policy dialogues within countries, the teams trained 125 programme managers/service providers and 300 youth leaders, adapting the training packages prepared by ICOMP with support from SIDA.

A major project on enhancing NGO effectiveness, particularly of women's NGOs, in seven Asian countries — Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Viet Nam — was implemented with support from the Asian Development Bank. The strategy comprised regional and national training, exposure study tours and technical assistance. Seven focal NGOs, one in each country and about 200 grass-roots women's NGOs participated in this programme.

With support from the Rockefeller Foundation and in collaboration with the Partners in Population and Development, an intergovernmental organization, a network of South-South facilitator NGOs has been developed. Programme assessment and action research have been the primary focus of programme development activities. The following action research projects have been implemented:

- With support from UNFPA, action research on improving quality of care at one site each in India, Viet Nam and Sri Lanka.
- With support from DANIDA, a pilot project on enhancing gender responsiveness of population programmes was implemented at a site in the Philippines. ICOMP is currently seeking support to expand these activities in Eastern Africa.
- With small grant support from UNFPA, pilot urban slum reproductive health programmes are being implemented in Kenya, Uganda, India and Pakistan.

With Ford Foundation support, ICOMP is providing technical support to India and China on moving away from demographic targets and towards the quality of care approach. The Rockefeller and Packard Foundations have provided support to the Asia-Pacific Alliance: Advancing the ICPD Agenda. ICOMP executes and technically assists small grant activities on behalf of the Alliance. A project to enhance civil society's role in upscaling reproductive health innovations is being implemented with Ford Foundation support. This project includes documentation and dissemination of innovative experiences, development of a training package, and strengthening country capacity for enhancing civil society's role in reproductive health programmes.

## **5. International Federation for Home Economics**

### **Category II consultative status granted in 1981**

#### **Aims of organization**

Founded in 1908, the mission of the International Federation for Home Economics (IFHE) is to provide a forum for home economists as advocates for individuals, families and households in their home country and at the United Nations. The organization, in 116 countries, brings together more than 20

professional associations and groups and individuals. Five regions of the world are represented: Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Pacific.

The IFHE World Congress, composed of both organizational and individual members, convenes every four years to formulate resolutions and recommendations that determine the direction of IFHE. The Council, consisting of representatives of member organizations, meets every two years to consider IFHE programmes and policies. The Executive Committee and Programme Committees meet yearly and are responsible for implementing the IFHE programme of work.

#### **Participation in United Nations conferences and meetings: 1997-2000**

IFHE NGOs are actively involved in issues related to the family and its members. They attended the commission meetings listed below and provided leadership in formulating statements submitted by the NGO Committee on the Family, presenting two of them orally.

*Commission on the Status of Women (CSW): 1997-2000*

*Commission on Social Development (CSD): 1997-2000*

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 2/98  | Co-signer of a statement submitted by the NGO Committee on the Family.  |
| 12/00 | Chaired the committee formulating the statement signed by members of the NGO Committee on the Family, presenting the statement orally to CSD in 2001. |

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies**

IFHE works closely with Amr Galab, Director of the Family Unit.

*Family Unit — Department of Economic and Social Affairs*

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 2/98      | Invited as one of 7 major INGOs dealing with the family to formulate strategies for the follow-up to the International Year of the Family, which will be celebrated in 2004.                  |
| 9/99      | IFHE NGOs along with the members of the Committee on the Family met with the Director of the Family Unit to continue the discussion of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family. |
| 1997-2000 | Cooperated with the Family Unit in planning and presenting programmes for United Nations agencies, delegates and NGOs to celebrate the International Day of Families on 15 May.               |

#### **Participation in NGO committees**

IFHE NGOs are members of and actively involved in the committees related to the family and its members. The first priority has been the Committee on the Family, where they have served in leadership roles since it was organized in the mid-1980s.

- NGO Committee on the Family
  - 1997-1998 Co-Chair
  - 2000 to present Co-Chair
  - 1998 Treasurer
- Committee on the Status of Women
- Committee on Older Persons
- Committee on UNIFEM
  - 1996-1998 Convenor

#### **Department of Public Information (DPI)**

All IFHE NGOs attend the weekly briefings presented by the Department.

#### **Other activities**

- 1996-2000 IFHE Beijing Action Group, organized by United States IFHE members, provided education and training and encouraged research on four Beijing Platform issues.
- 7/98 IFHE Council meeting in Puerto Rico passed a resolution in support of the International Year of Older Persons.
- 1998 Organized a United Nations workshop preceding the CSW meeting to provide training for IFHE-United States members in effective participation in CSW meeting.
- 2000 Organized a workshop for IFHE-United States members to be held in 2001 in increasing the effectiveness of IFHE NGOs.

#### **Vienna IFHE NGO activity**

IFHE is an active member of the following Vienna NGO committees:

- Committee on the Family
- Committee on the Status of Women
- Committee on Ageing

## **6. International Human Rights Law Group**

### **Special consultative status granted in 1989**

#### **Introduction**

The International Human Rights Law Group (the Law Group) is an international non-governmental organization that conducts human rights advocacy, litigation and training for activists around the world. One critical element of the Law Group's work is providing access to and training on the United Nations system and mechanisms to our partner non-governmental organizations around the world and ensuring that local voices are heard at the international level.

### **Commission on Human Rights**

In 1997, the Law Group created the Advocacy Bridge Program (AB Program) as a means to promote the use of various mechanisms available at the United Nations bodies concerned with human rights and to facilitate the access of local NGOs to international bodies discussing their country situations. The overarching goal of the AB Program is to enable grass-roots human rights activists to participate at the annual session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (CHR) in Geneva. In particular, the AB Program works with activists from historically underrepresented groups and countries in order to increase participation from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from developing countries at the United Nations and to provide international exposure to local concerns. Each training creates opportunities for cross-regional information exchange and strategy sharing for local human rights activists from different continents, integrates women's human rights into the agenda and assists grass-roots NGOs in evaluating the scope and usefulness of various United Nations mechanisms for their strategic programme development. Every year since 1997, the Law Group has supported the participation of NGO representatives from Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and South and Central America in these trainings. In 1999, UNIFEM and UNDP (Ethiopia and Senegal) supported the participation of four African women in the Law Group's training programme. At the CHR, these individuals, in coordination with the Law Group, prepare oral interventions, hold panels on their specific human rights concerns and provide important information to country representatives about the situation in their home countries. In 1998, AB participants also worked in conjunction with a coalition of women activists from around the world to produce the report "Recommendations for Integrating Women's Human Rights into the United Nations Human Rights Activities".

Additionally, the Law Group frequently provides information to United Nations Special Rapporteurs and Representatives for use in the development of their reports, facilitates NGO meetings with Rapporteurs and Representatives during their visits to our project countries and supports the dissemination of the Rapporteur and Representative Reports to NGOs with limited access. In particular, the Law Group worked closely with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women on highlighting the critical issue of women's inheritance rights, which led to the adoption of a new resolution, CHR Resolution 2000/13, on this issue in the 2000 CHR session in Geneva.

### **United Nations World Conference Against Racism**

The Law Group was a leading participant in the preparation for the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, an active participant during the Conference, and co-sponsor of *Voices: a Special Forum on Comparative Experiences of Racism*, a presentation of 21 individual testimonies on racism delivered during the Conference and encouraged by Mrs. Mary Robinson, then United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In January 2000, the Law Group brought 25 leaders from around the world — influential in Government, international organizations, national institutions and the non-governmental sector — to Bellagio, Italy, to define what the content and practical outcomes of the World Conference should be. The Bellagio Consultation Report became the focal document used by Conference organizers in setting the Conference agenda. To prepare NGOs for effective involvement in Conference processes, the Law Group published a

multilingual guide to participating in the Conference, entitled *Combating Racism Together*. The Law Group distributed over 2,000 guides to individuals and community and human rights organizations in over 50 countries.

The Law Group coordinated a series of consultations in the United States between United States civil rights organizations and United Nations officials (including the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights), conducted United States leadership trainings and convened an Afro-Latino consultation in Costa Rica to help groups articulate their concerns during the December 2000 Regional Preparatory Conference in Chile. The Law Group facilitated two round tables on race and poverty and a dialogue among representatives of the African slave-descendent communities in the Americas in Santiago de Chile and Geneva, which began during the Chile Preparatory Conference and continued at the next Geneva Preparatory Conference in May 2000.

#### **Other treaty bodies and specialized agencies**

Working at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 1997, 1998 and 1999, the Law Group advocated for a resolution on Afghan women's rights.

The Law Group organized a panel at a special meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery in Geneva on 21-22 June 1999. The Law Group also organized NGOs into the Human Rights Caucus in Vienna between 1999 and 2000, which participated in all United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice negotiations on the new United Nations Trafficking Protocol. Furthermore, the Law Group participated in International Criminal Court (ICC) treaty negotiations in New York City in 1998 and 1999 and in Rome in August 2000 as a member of the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice in the ICC.

The Law Group worked with UNIFEM on preparing a manual on shadow reports in December of 2000. The Law Group provides training to NGOs on the production and distribution of shadow reports to better enable country representatives working at the United Nations to engage countries on their obligations under various treaties.

#### **Mission-based cooperation**

During this reporting period, the Law Group had field offices in several countries where the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has a field presence, including Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cambodia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In those countries, the Law Group endeavours to coordinate activities with United Nations initiatives whenever such coordination capitalizes on pooled efforts. Additionally, the Law Group works closely with our partner groups to make critical background information available to Special Rapporteurs and Representatives prior to and during their visits.

## **7. Rotary International**

### **General consultative status granted in 1993**

#### **Introduction**

Rotary International is an organization of approximately 1.2 million business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build good will and peace in the world. The organization was founded in 1905 and has since grown to become a global network of more than 29,000 Rotary clubs in 161 countries and 35 geographical regions.

These clubs work to improve the quality of life for people around the world through volunteer projects initiated at the grass-roots and community levels. Projects are funded by the clubs or with the assistance of grants from the Rotary Foundation.

#### **Membership**

Membership in Rotary clubs worldwide has fluctuated over the past four years, dipping slightly to 1,176,169 from 1,213,748 as of December 2000. New Rotary International clubs have been established in increasing numbers worldwide, with the most significant growth in Brazil, Canada, Egypt, England, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Philippines, Romania, Russia, Switzerland, Taiwan, Province of China, Turkey, and the United States of America.

#### **Affiliations with international entities in consultative status with the United Nations**

In addition to the Economic and Social Council, Rotary International maintains official relations with WHO, UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO, UNEP, UNCHS, Council of Europe, the World Bank, Organization of American States and the Organization of African Unity. In order to maintain a close relationship with these organizations, Rotary International's world president annually appoints volunteer representatives in the United Nations headquarter cities and to key intergovernmental organizations in New York, Geneva, Vienna, Paris, Nairobi, Washington, D.C., and Rome.

#### **Changes in funding sources or commitments**

As part of the global partnership to eradicate polio, Rotary's PolioPlus programme has been cited by United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan as a "shining example of private/public partnership". Since 1985, Rotary has committed over US\$ 407 million for global polio eradication. Rotarians and the Rotary Foundation have contributed as of 1 May 2001, over \$26 million to PolioPlus Partners for social mobilization, laboratory, surveillance and other polio eradication projects.

Under the leadership of the Polio Eradication Private Sector Initiative Task Force, the Rotary Foundation and the United Nations Foundation are collaborating in a joint appeal to the private sector, defined as corporations, foundations, and philanthropists, to raise funds for polio eradication needs. In the period July 2000 to December 2001, some \$80 million in such gifts have been obtained thus far.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies and officials**

Since the last quadrennial report, RI has been invited with increasing frequency to participate at the highest levels in conferences and meetings of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations agencies. Rotary officers meet with United Nations agency directors and executives on a regular basis to discuss collaborative efforts. Often, RI senior leaders are invited to deliver keynote addresses or to participate in panel discussions. In addition, RI has supported United Nations conferences by hosting panel discussions, staging exhibits, or preparing position statements for presentation or publication. The following examples demonstrate the wide range of issues that have been addressed by RI initiatives, but represent only a portion of United Nations events at which Rotary has been featured over the past four years:

- **United Nations Department of Public Information NGO Conference**, United Nations/New York, September 1997 — Keynote address on social mobilization by the Chairman of the Rotary Foundation.
- **United Nations Commission for Social Development**, United Nations/New York, March 1998 — Verbal presentation on public/private partnership by RI representative.
- **United Nations Commission on the Status of Women**, United Nations/New York, March 1998 and March 2000 — RI statements published by the Economic and Social Council explained RI's position on women's health issues and empowerment.
- **United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development**, April 1998 — Verbal presentation about the role of NGOs by an RI representative.
- **United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly on combating the world drug problem**, United Nations/New York, 8-10 June 1998 — Verbal statement to the Committee of the Whole by past RI President Luis Giay regarding RI's work on drug abuse prevention.
- **World Youth Forum of the United Nations**, 2-6 August 1998, Braga, Portugal — Verbal statement about Rotary-sponsored youth leadership programmes by an RI representative.
- **UNESCO/OAS Third Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management**, Panama City, March 1999 — Keynote address highlighting Rotary's commitment and work on water issues was delivered by RI President-elect Frank Devlyn.
- **World Commission on Water for the 21st Century**, directed by the World Bank, UNESCO and other United Nations agencies, 1998-2000 — RI representative served on the Senior Advisory Board to assist with development of the World Water Vision.
- **UNAIDS High-level Cooperative Meeting, Washington, D.C., December 1999** — RI Vice-President participated in working group discussions as an RI representative.
- **UNDP HDRO Second Global Forum on Human Development**, 8-10 October 2000, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil — RI Director served as a panellist in a discussion on corporate accountability.



- **United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Summit for Social Development**, Geneva, 26-30 June 2000 — Hosted panel presentation on public/private partnerships in social development and health care.

#### **United Nations awards and recognition**

- **International UNESCO Prize for Peace through Education** — Dr. Francois Giraud (Rotary Club, France), 1998.
- **Economic and Social Council Collection of Success Stories, 1998** — Featured 2 Rotary Club projects: **Salud Para el Pueblo**, a 3-H sanitation and health project in Ecuador and **Solar Cooking Technology** examples in Kenya and Honduras.
- **Fete d'excellence** humanitarian film award — Dushan Angius (Rotary Club, Los Angeles, CA, USA), for "The Los Altos Story", August 1998.
- **1998 Dubai International Award 100 Best Practices** — highlighted the Salud Para el Pueblo project developed by the Rotary Club of Ecuador.

#### **Participating in the meetings and activities of United Nations agencies**

RI representatives routinely attend and monitor the Executive Board meetings, PrepCom meetings, and the other events and activities of United Nations agencies and subsidiary agencies in order to identify common concerns and goals that are parallel to Rotary's mission. These representatives facilitate communication between RI and United Nations entities at the highest levels, while encouraging collaboration on joint projects with United Nations agencies at the local levels. Several RI representatives currently serve as chairpersons or members of Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CONGO) committees and NGO committees, including the **NGO Council to UNESCO**, the **UNICEF NGO committee**, the **United Nations Department of Public Information NGO Committee**, and the **NGO Committee for the Status of Women**. In 2000, RI was elected to the **CONGO Executive Board** and the RI representatives in New York were the catalysts in forming the **CONGO Committee on Education**.

Supplementing the panels and workshops within major United Nations conferences listed earlier, RI also collaborates with United Nations agencies on regional meetings and seminars related to a single mutual concern such as literacy. Some examples include: **UNESCO/International Literacy Institute Forum** in Dakar, March 1998; **UNESCO/Melbourne Education/Literacy Forum, March 1998**; **UNESCO 2nd Regional NGO meeting** in Durban, April 1998.

#### **Joint promotional and sponsorship activities**

A joint statement of cooperation is in effect between RI and UNAIDS, and the RI Board of Directors just approved a similar memorandum with UNFPA. In December 2000, discussions with United Nations Assistant Secretary-General John Ruggie were initiated to determine how RI can support the United Nations Global Compact. Furthermore, RI encourages its membership to collaborate with United Nations agencies by sharing resource information and highlighting United Nations programmes in 9 languages (English, Spanish, French, German, Japanese, Italian,

Swiss, Portuguese and Korean). RI uses a combination of communications tools to disseminate information to its clubs, such as publications, the Rotary web site and an RI United Nations Agencies Task Force (2000-2001) that is charged with promoting RI/United Nations collaboration at the local Rotary Club levels around the world. A binder with copies of Rotary publications featuring United Nations initiatives and information about RI/United Nations collaboration is en route by courier.

## **8. Sisterhood Is Global Institute**

### **Special consultative status granted in 1993**

The Sisterhood Is Global Institute (SIGI)/Institut pour la solidarité internationale des femmes (ISIF) hereby submits to the Economic and Social Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, a brief report of the organization's activities.

### **Aims and objectives**

The Sisterhood Is Global Institute (SIGI)/Institut pour la solidarité internationale des femmes (ISIF) is an international, non-profit organization founded in 1984 to forge and promote visionary yet pragmatic strategies for furthering women's rights at the local, national, regional and global levels. SIGI/ISIF has members in close to 70 countries, and maintains ties with almost 1,500 individuals and organizations worldwide through its activist arm, the Sisterhood Is Global Network (SIGNET). SIGI's main goals are to: conduct research and distribute information about human rights abuses committed against women; inform women of the basic rights guaranteed to them in international human rights instruments; empower women through human rights education programmes to define the rights they consider significant; empower women through leadership training programmes to achieve their rights; expand women's human rights networks at local, national, regional and global levels; facilitate participation of women from the global South in international debates on women's human rights; encourage women from all areas and backgrounds to work together to define and achieve common goals; and promote cooperation among women to define and develop a culture of peace and human rights for the 21st century. In 1998, UNICEF contributed \$5,000 to the proceedings of SIGI's "Expert Group Meeting on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls" in Washington, D.C. UNIFEM awarded SIGI three separate grants: \$50,000 in July 1998 for SIGI's "Eliminating Violence Against Women" project for the period between July 1998 and June 1999; \$200,000.00 for the organization's "Leadership Building Through Human Rights Education and Knowledge Partnership" programmes, for the period between June 1998, and June 2000; and \$10,000.00 for SIGI's "Expert Group Meeting on Violence Against Women" in 1998.

### **Participation in the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations conferences/meetings**

In March 2000, several of SIGI's members attended the 44th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and 3rd session of the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations General Assembly special session. In June 2000, SIGI's president, Greta Hofmann Nemiroff, along with several other SIGI members, attended the United Nations "Beijing + 5" Conference in New York.

### **Initiatives for cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies**

- 1996: UNIFEM representatives in Asia-Pacific and Africa were briefed on SIGI's human rights education programme, based on SIGI's manual *Claiming Our Rights: A Manual for Women's Human Rights Education in Muslim Societies*.
- 1997: UNCHR used portions of the above manual in their forthcoming rights awareness training manual for educating adult refugees; UNESCO intended to use the manual as a model as they create a culturally relevant teaching aid for human rights education at the primary and secondary levels.
- 1998: SIGI, in collaboration with UNIFEM and the Global Fund for Women, convened the "Expert Group Meeting on Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls" at the American University's Washington College of Law, attended by forty-five academicians, activists, and advocates from international, grant-giving, and/or non-governmental organizations and universities worldwide. SIGI developed a training manual for trainers working on women's human rights guaranteed through international covenants, particularly the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. UN Radio interviewed members of SIGI: Mahnaz Afkhami, Asma Khader, Marfua Tokhtakhodjaeva and Mashuda Khatun Shefali. Along with the United Nations Development Fund for Women, SIGI co-sponsored the "Violence Against Women in Muslim Societies: The cases of Afghanistan, Algeria, and the Sudan" at the 42nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). SIGI participated in a retreat entitled "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 50: Progress and Challenges", which brought together key diplomats participating in the 53rd session of the United Nations General Assembly. SIGI participated in the "Understanding Culture in Sustainable Development: Investing in Cultural and National Endowments" conference sponsored by the World Bank and UNESCO.
- 2000: On 10 February, SIGI hosted a talk on women and microcredit, which featured presentations by Mashuda Khatun Shefali, our member from Bangladesh and President of Nari Udug Kendra, and Carmen Velasco from Pro Mujer, a vast microcredit programme for women in Bolivia. On 20 May, along with the Montreal group, Femmes Africaines Horizons 2015, as well as the Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices (which holds special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council), SIGI sponsored, and its president participated in, a panel discussion at the Université du Québec à Montréal on issues pertaining to female genital mutilation in immigrant communities in Canada. In October, Greta Hofmann Nemiroff, in her capacity as a member of the Coordinating Committee of the Marche Mondiale des Femmes and as President of SIGI, took part in the World March

of Women, which took place in Washington on October 15 and in New York on October 18. Leila Bedeir, SIGI's Office and Communications Coordinator, is currently taking part in an educational project for young Muslim women in Canada under the aegis of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women.

### **Other relevant organizational activities**

#### **Events and conferences**

SIGI held conferences in 1996 and 1997: "Beijing and Beyond: Implementing the Platform for Action in Muslim Societies" and "Rights of Passage: Women's Human Rights Education in Muslim Societies", which included members of United Nations agencies (UNICEF) as panellists. They addressed the need to tackle the issue of violence against women as an integral human rights issue, particularly in relationship to empowerment and leadership development. SIGI developed its "Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls" programme to promote dialogue on ways and means of eliminating gender-based violence, based on SIGI's training manual *Safe and Secure: Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls*. Participants at the conference saw two videos (provided by UNICEF) addressing human rights education for young girls in Kenya and Bangladesh. In 1997, SIGI held a plenary session and three round tables on the theme "Towards a Compassionate Society) at the State of World Forum on 8 November 1997, in San Francisco, California. In 1998, SIGI's former president, Mahnaz Afkhami, moderated another State of the World Forum conference, which brought together more than 1,000 policy makers, scholars, and representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations from over 103 nations to deliberate on the principles, values, and actions that should guide humanity in the third millennium. Numerous SIGI members participated in the 29 October round table, "Human Needs/Human Rights: The Evolving Relationship between the People, Social Policy, and the Law", where they examined the discrepancy between the essence of the Universal Declaration, which guarantees individuals rights because they are human beings regardless of race, gender, creed, nationality or any other affiliation, and the continuing abuses of these rights around the world. The 30 October round table entitled "Claiming a Place at the Table: Women and Human Rights" also included SIGI members. As part of the activities leading up to the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, SIGI/Jordan, in collaboration with the Mizan Law Group for Human Rights, the national Task Force for Children, and UNICEF convened a meeting of experts to discuss the "Arab Declaration of Children's Rights" and the "Plan of Work for 2000-2010" to advance the rights of children. SIGI/Jordan, in collaboration with UNICEF and UNDP, also arranged with major newspapers in Jordan for the distribution of sixty thousand posters of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women*.

#### **Publications and workshops**

In 1999-2000, SIGI produced a record number of publications, which have been distributed worldwide: *Claiming Our Rights: A Manual for Women's Human Rights Education in Muslim Societies*, revised English edition, by Mahnaz Afkhami and Heleh Vaziri, and translated and adapted into Arabic, Azeri, Bangla, Farsi, Hindi, Malay, Russian, Urdu, Uzbek, and French; *In Our Own Words: A Guide for*

*Human Rights Education Facilitators*, by Nancy Flowers (copies of which were distributed to UNICEF and UNIFEM), translated and adapted into Arabic, Russian and Uzbek; *Safe and Secure: Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls in Muslim Society*, English edition, by Mahnaz Afkhami, Greta Hofmann Nemiroff, and Haleh Vaziri, translated into Arabic, Farsi, French and Russian; and *Strategizing for Safety: Essays from the Expert Group Meeting on Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls*, edited by Haleh Vaziri (distributed to UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNIFEM Jordan, UNICEF, UNICEF Jordan, and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women). SIGI's "Human Rights Education" programme, which was set up in 1997 based on the manual *Claiming Our Rights*, continued to grow over this reporting period, with workshops extending to Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan (Afghan refugees), Syria, and Uzbekistan. SIGI's Eliminating Violence Against Women project, which utilizes the *Safe and Secure* manual, continues to be successful in Egypt, Lebanon, and Jordan. Leadership training workshops using *In Our Own Words* have taken place in Jordan, Lebanon, India, Pakistan (Afghan refugees), and Uzbekistan. Finally information and communications technology workshops as a component of the "Knowledge Partnership Program" were held in Jordan, Lebanon, and Pakistan (Afghan refugees).

#### **Alerts**

Over this reporting period, SIGI issued over thirty Urgent Action Alerts to members of its activist arm, SIGNET, encouraging them to take action to help stop women's rights violations taking place all over the world and ranging from threats to U.S. Congressional Family Planning Funding to the Egyptian Court's Decision to recall a Ban on Female Genital Mutilation. These alerts were translated into Arabic, Chinese, French and Spanish and distributed to SIGI members in over 70 countries.

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