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## **1. Earthcorps**

### **(Special consultative status granted in 2000)**

The Earthcorps mission is to create a global community through local environmental service. Our work engages local and international youth volunteers in environmental restoration and community-building work. We lead and manage over 8,500 community volunteers each year at environmental restoration events.

#### **Local restoration**

Earthcorps conducts and stewards community-based environmental restoration projects at over 300 project sites in the Pacific north-west of the United States. These projects include: conducting urban and rural forest stewardship by removing invasive species and replanting native trees, shrubs, groundcover and emergent flora; restoration of riparian corridors and aquatic environments through our partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; engaging at-risk youth and members of underserved communities in environmental service-learning projects in both urban and rural areas; demonstrating and advocating new models of organizational partnerships by working with Governments, businesses, foundations and environmental non-profit organizations, as well as religious, social service and community groups.

#### **Global leadership**

Earthcorps operates year-round, offering intensive, work-based, service-learning experiences for young people from all over the world. Our participants, aged 20 to 25, learn skills in environmental restoration, teamwork and leadership. Our field projects are primarily located in western Washington state, and are generated through over 40 collaborative partnerships with governmental agencies and community non-profit organizations. Our fieldwork is complemented by a parallel educational curriculum that covers pertinent restoration/environmental topics, teamwork and leadership, and cross-cultural communication. Earthcorps has long-standing partnerships with over 30 international grass-roots organizations. Our international partners represent some of the most biologically diverse countries and areas on the planet: the Caribbean, Ecuador, Kenya, Mexico, Philippines, United Republic of Tanzania and others. Earthcorps collaborates with large international organizations, such as the United States Peace Corps, the Nature Conservancy and Conservation International to identify proactive organizations that focus on engaging their community members in environmental service. Since 2000, Earthcorps has trained over 45 young international leaders from international environmental organizations. Earthcorps focuses on local environmental restoration as a tool to teach our international participants skills they can use to create sustainable restoration projects in their local communities and environments.

#### **New projects and partnerships**

Earthcorps training is a proven success. Earthcorps-trained youth leaders are making positive impacts on their local environments and are promoting long-term change in their local communities. Between 2000 and 2003, collaboration among Earthcorps staff, international alumni and partner organizations has resulted in exciting projects around the world.

**Ipala Volcano project, Guatemala**

The Earthcorps Guatemalan partner organization, Eastern Guatemala Sustainable Development Association, and its Earthcorps-trained staff recently completed plans for a nature education centre and native tree nursery that will create a sustainable livelihood for local residents and assist with reforestation of the Ipala Volcano, one of only seven volcano-crater-lake ecosystems in the world. Support for this project provides a livelihood for local residents and assists with reforestation of the Ipala Volcano.

**Lake Baikal Trail project, Russian Federation**

Earthcorps and our Russian alumni are working to develop the community skills and support infrastructure necessary to build the Lake Baikal Trail, a 1,500-mile trail network that will encircle the world's largest freshwater lake when complete. One of the largest and most biologically diverse lakes in the world, Lake Baikal holds one fifth of the Earth's freshwater. Construction will involve community volunteers, local organizations and international partners. Our goals are to encourage ecotourism, foster local economic development and build an international movement that will preserve and protect Lake Baikal.

**Palawan conservation project, Philippines**

Filipino alumni of the Palawan Conservation Corps and Earthcorps hosted an international work camp in 2003, which established a 10,000 square foot native plant nursery to support the Educational Palawan Nature Park and surrounding natural areas. Completion of this project has greatly increased the ability of the Palawan Conservation Corps to restore the local wilderness area.

**United Nations meetings and events**

Earthcorps has been unable to attend any United Nations meetings or events since 2000 due to budget constraints. The majority of our annual budget is now consumed by general operational activities, which does not allow us to fund international or national travel to meetings or events of this type. Earthcorps would like to encourage the United Nations to continue sending us notices of events and meetings in our area so that if funding becomes available we would be able to attend.

**Earthcorps initiatives to support the United Nations**

Earthcorps protects the global environment and promotes sustainable development. Each year, Earthcorps leads over 8,500 youth and community volunteers on environmental service learning projects in the north-west United States. Volunteers are led by up to 60 Earthcorps-trained youth leaders from across the United States and around the world. The international exchange and training that Earthcorps supports raises awareness of global environmental issues and promotes cross-cultural understanding in the United States and in the home communities of the young people from around the world trained by Earthcorps.

**Biological diversity**

Earthcorps operates year-round throughout the world restoring native habitats, removing invasive plants, planting native flora and providing habitats to native

animal species. In 2003 alone, Earthcorps provided more than 125,000 hours of environmental service for habitat improvement, including 40 acres of invasive plants removed, 80,000 native plants installed, 113,000 native plants watered during dry summer months, and 8,500 youth and community volunteers effectively engaged in environmental service and educated about local and global environmental issues.

## **2. Egyptian AIDS Society**

### **(Special consultative status granted in 2000)**

#### **Aims and objectives**

Increasing awareness between youth and other sectors of society regarding HIV/AIDS and preventative methods; developing and training technical and professional personnel in HIV/AIDS prevention, in order for them to pass on their knowledge; providing counselling, as well as social and financial support, to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families; performing research and studies related to HIV/AIDS; organizing scientific conferences and workshops related to HIV/AIDS; establishing cooperation between governmental and non-governmental organizations; directing the Society's activities to serve social development programmes; publishing periodic circulars about the Society's activities and HIV/AIDS; advocating social support in offering proper treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS; helping people living with HIV/AIDS to be able to function in society.

The Society achieves its aims and objectives through radio, television and other mass media programmes; providing efficient training for medical, social and media personnel in order to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS and preventative methods; organizing symposiums, conferences, contests and exhibitions of youth's artistic work related to HIV/AIDS; organizing interactive public gatherings and meetings; performing plays related to STIs and HIV/AIDS; conducting research and studies about HIV/AIDS; publicizing the observance of World AIDS Day through media facilities. Counselling people living with HIV/AIDS and their families; updating and publishing the Society's web site and e-mail addresses; cooperating with well-known personalities, actors and politicians to influence public opinion and promote empathy for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Thanks to its consultative status and the national and international trust gained by the Society, EAS was able to get financial, technical and technological support from several national and international organizations and United Nations bodies, i.e. collaborating with the Ford Foundation on two projects from 2002 to 2004 with a total capital of US\$ 143,000, financed by the Ford Foundation, which improved the Society's financial situation. EAS has made remarkable progress from experience gained through two important events at United Nations Headquarters. EAS was able to introduce modern information technology to its work, along with updated scientific material published by the United Nations worldwide (i.e. books, circulars, CDs, documentaries, etc.), which increases the effectiveness of EAS activities. Many new members in important scientific positions and others concerned with human rights have lately joined the Society due to its growing concern with the human rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. The Government of Egypt has been playing a major role in supporting EAS activities, especially in media campaigns. By setting up a web site, EAS has reached many individuals and organizations who

were not familiar with EAS activities. Joining several affiliations has enabled EAS to widen the network it shares with other societies, which, in return, support United Nations activities.

### **Participation in and contribution to the work of the Council**

#### *Major conferences and United Nations meetings*

Forty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women; special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS.

#### *Activities carried out in cooperation with the United Nations and its bodies*

Brainstorming session on HIV/AIDS in the Middle East, February 2000, Jordan; UNICEF/WHO/AGFUND subregional workshop on the cultural approach to HIV/AIDS, prevention and care for sustainable development in African Arab countries, Cairo, May 2000; the First Arab Women's Conference, Cairo, November 2000; World Bank meeting on methods of poverty prevention, Cairo, January 2001; UNESCO strategy workshop, September 2001, Alexandria, Egypt; field research on HIV/AIDS prevention and care for young people using health centres, Cairo, 2003; partnership with civil society on HIV/AIDS in the Middle East and North Africa, Cairo, June 2003; UNAIDS/UNDP workshop on establishing national AIDS societies affiliation, Alexandria, Egypt, December 2003; the International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa, Nairobi, September 2003.

### **Other important international conferences and activities related to the work of the United Nations in which EAS has taken part**

African regional HIV/AIDS initiative planning meeting, May 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa, partnership with African NGOs working with HIV/AIDS prevention and supporting people living with HIV/AIDS through the Panos network, supported by the Ford Foundation. EAS organized the third African regional Ford Foundation grantee meeting in Alexandria, Egypt, May 2004.

EAS participated in all the above-mentioned conferences by presenting statements, attending parallel NGO meetings, and through presentations, exhibitions and/or reports related to the work of EAS in implementation of the work of the United Nations on HIV/AIDS and related health considerations.

### **Initiatives in support of United Nations goals**

Implementation of projects serving United Nations goals, such as the United Nations Children's Fund "Youth whispers" project 2000-2001, youth problems in society, including STIs and HIV/AIDS, sexual and reproductive health, unemployment, poverty, education, the role of women and human rights, UNICEF project on youth awareness of HIV/AIDS in touristic cities, 2001-2002, Alexandria and Hurgada, Egypt; supporting youth right to information and facts related to STIs and the HIV/AIDS project 2002-2003, financed by the Ford Foundation. EAS has participated in several national meetings and conferences by submitting papers and statements and by holding interactive discussions about United Nations concerns. Moreover, EAS has encouraged many other governmental organizations and societies to discuss and take effective action on such important issues as

circumcision, breaking the silence on HIV/AIDS, empathizing with people living with HIV/AIDS, and sexual and reproductive health issues and rights.

#### **Human rights and HIV/AIDS initiatives**

Human rights training session at Cairo Research Centre, August 2002, sponsored by the Human Rights Association. Over the years, many organizations have become interested in observing World AIDS Day with EAS.

### **3. Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning**

#### **(Special consultative status granted in 2000)**

JOICFP has been operating a series of activities in Africa, Asia and Latin America at the national and regional levels to improve the reproductive health and rights of the community. Our ultimate goal is to empower communities to operate their own reproductive health activities and develop JOICFP strategies to enhance the process. JOICFP conducts various kinds of activities accordingly in cooperation with UNFPA, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), the Government of Japan, and other foundations both in and out of Japan.

These activities are conducted in Africa (Ghana, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia), Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Viet Nam), and Latin America and the Caribbean (Bahamas, Guatemala, Mexico). International and regional activities are also conducted through workshops, training and seminars, as well as national activities such as a domestic campaign of international cooperation in Japan and resource mobilization activities in cooperation with around 40 other NGOs. JOICFP is the secretariat for ODA for population and reproductive health/rights to UNFPA and IPPF.

#### **Contribution to the work of the United Nations**

JOICFP has actively participated and taken the initiative on behalf of Japanese NGOs in the health and population sectors, representing around 40 organizations in United Nations conferences and meetings from 2000 to 2003 respectively. The major presence and attendance of JOICFP in United Nations conferences under its consultative status and/or as an NGO representative from Japan are set out below.

#### *Workshop on adolescent reproductive health for East and Southeast Asia and Pacific island countries, Bangkok, May 2000*

Following the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), adolescent reproductive health is increasingly being seen worldwide as a critical issue in the field of reproductive health/rights. JOICFP representatives participated in the workshop.

#### *United Nations Population Award*

JOICFP received the United Nations Population Award for 2001 as a leading international organization in population and reproductive health/rights.

*World Summit on Sustainable Development*

A JOICFP representative participated in the Summit as an official NGO representative of Japan to contribute to Japanese statements and discussions on sustainable development based on experience from field activities on population and reproductive health/rights.

*Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference, Bangkok, December 2002*

JOICFP targeted the Conference as a key opportunity for advocacy, and was also involved in organizing the NGO forum as a parallel activity to the Conference.

*Third World Water Forum, Osaka, Japan, 16-23 March 2003*

JOICFP participated as an NGO representative and organized workshops and presentation sessions to talk about the importance of clean water for reducing maternal and infant mortality rates, personal hygiene in developing countries, and “water and women”.

**United Nations meetings or events in Japan***World Population Day 2000-2003*

JOICFP, in cooperation with UNFPA, organized a special symposium to commemorate World Population Day on 11 July every year during 2000-2003 at the Japan Press Center in Tokyo, in order to promote awareness, understanding and advocacy on population issues and reproductive health/rights. Around 200 to 300 participants attended each year.

*High-level policy makers symposium on South-South collaboration, 2001-2003*

JOICFP co-organized a symposium with UNDP, UNFPA and other organizations in 2001, 2002 and 2003 at United Nations House, Tokyo.

*Symposium on maternal health in developing countries, Tokyo, June 2003*

JOICFP cooperated with UNICEF, UNFPA, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japan International Cooperation Agency in organizing a symposium to discuss the situation of maternal mortality and the role of the Japanese Government and NGOs in reducing the maternal mortality rate in developing countries. The symposium was held in Tokyo, with 200 participants and observers.

**Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the ICPD Programme of Action**

JOICFP, in collaboration with United Nations organizations, in particular UNFPA, organized regional programmes on reproductive health/rights in Africa, Asia and Latin America in the form of workshops, training and seminars as an executing agency from 2000 to 2003, for the advancement of the Programme of Action and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

### **Advocacy and publication activities in cooperation with UNFPA**

In Japan, JOICFP, on behalf of UNFPA and in cooperation with the UNFPA Tokyo office, has acted as NGO focal point and conducted advocacy activities for the advancement of the ICPD Programme of Action and resource mobilization from the Government of Japan to UNFPA.

#### *Partnership and exchange of personnel with UNFPA*

JOICFP supported UNFPA in establishing and opening the UNFPA Tokyo office on 1 September 2002. The director of JOICFP was seconded to UNFPA as the first director of the office. JOICFP has also seconded a programme officer to UNFPA headquarters as the Parliamentary/NGO Public Affairs Officer since 15 July 2001 to further strengthen the partnership between Japan/JOICFP and UNFPA.

## **4. Match International Centre**

### **(Special consultative status granted in 1996)**

Match International Centre is an international non-governmental organization that supports the initiatives of women in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. From 2000 to 2003, Match International Centre was successful in implementing a number of Articles of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and addressed all 12 of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. Match participation in the Council was primarily concerned with the Commission on the Status of Women, the Working Group on the Optional Protocol to the Convention and ECA.

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The general aims of Match International Centre are to work in partnership with women's groups in Africa, Asia, Canada and Latin America and the Caribbean to eliminate violence against women and to strengthen women's sustainable development; and support women in their efforts to achieve social justice, thus enabling them to achieve the practical enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Through these means, Match is enabling women to shape economic, political, social and cultural structures that affect them by representing themselves in decision-making spheres; to provide women in crisis with immediate primary and temporary support; to promote the work of women for social change through awareness-raising and training activities; to strengthen the voice of marginalized groups in community mobilization efforts; and to offer skills training and rights education.

#### **Participation in the work of the Council and related bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings**

##### *Twenty-third special session of the General Assembly*

Match partner organization WiLDAF facilitated the process for African NGO participation in the special session and organized a preparatory meeting for the sixth African regional conference on women held in preparation for the special session. WiLDAF organized programmes to share outcomes of African women at the sixth



regional conference held in preparation for the special session. Match representatives to the special session included the programme officers for Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. A Match board member attended the special session as a representative of both the Chilean official delegation and Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **Other relevant activities**

All groups with which Match is working, indeed Match itself, address on some level the measures set out in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to achieve substantive equality between men and women. The work of Match International Centre also encapsulates each of the 12 critical areas of concern as outlined in the Beijing Platform for Action and contributes to most of the Millennium Development Goals set out by the United Nations.

Match International Centre regularly consults United Nations offices and agencies concerning the implementation of United Nations resolutions and the mandate of the Organization.

In 2001-2002, a Match board member representing the African region facilitated training sessions for UNHCR on gender, women's rights and sexual, gender-based violence. In 2001, sessions were provided to NGOs and gender focal points in government departments in Sierra Leone, and in 2002, sessions were held for two groups at Buduburan Camp in Ghana, which housed Liberian refugees.

In 2003, a Match board member representing the African region was on the Women and Development Committee of ECA and was responsible for organizing an African regional conference on women.

In 2003, a Match board member representing the Asian region coordinated a UNRISD study and report on armed conflict, violence and social change, one of four broad areas of institutional and policy reform study assessing the progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action to be launched at the March 2005 session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

In 2002, a Match board member was appointed People-to-People Ambassador by the United Nations to promote mutual understanding and peace to groups in conflict. In 2003, a Match partner — Gender Studies and Documentation Centre — and former partner — WiLDAF — were granted affiliation with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. A Match board member from the Asian region was appointed to the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development in 2003.

## **5. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights**

### **(Special consultative status granted in 1996)**

In its second four-year period of special consultative status with the Council, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights used its status to offer input to the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights, the subcommission on the promotion and protection of human rights, the twenty-third special session of the General

Assembly and its preparatory process, the Commission on the Status of Women, and the special session of the General Assembly on children.

### **Aims and purposes**

The mission of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is to implement international human rights standards to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law. By involving volunteers in research, education and advocacy, we build broad constituencies in the United States and selected global communities. Minnesota Advocates: investigates and exposes human rights violations internationally and in the United States; represents immigrants and refugees who are victims of human rights abuses; trains and assists groups that protect human rights; and works through education and advocacy to engage the public, policy makers and children about human rights and cultural understanding. Minnesota Advocates has produced more than 50 reports documenting human rights practices in more than 25 countries, and works with partners overseas and in the United States to restore and protect human rights.

Building on our practice of using traditional human rights monitoring methods to address cutting-edge human rights issues, Minnesota Advocates is developing practical and sustainable strategies that use human rights monitoring methods to contribute to the success of transitional justice. Minnesota Advocates began by monitoring the Truth and Reconciliation Commission process in Peru, followed by monitoring the work of both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for Sierra Leone and the Special Court for Sierra Leone. Minnesota Advocates partners with community leaders in the village of Sankhu, Nepal, to educate some of the region's poorest students at the Sankhu-Palubari community school.

Our refugee and immigrant programme provides legal representation to people in the United States at risk of deportation to their home countries where they face persecution because of their race, religion, nationality, social group or political belief. More than 300 Minnesota Advocates volunteer lawyers represent hundreds of asylum seekers every year.

The women's human rights programme of Minnesota Advocates applies international human rights standards to advocate for women's rights in the United States and around the world. The women's programme partners with local organizations overseas and in the United States to document cases of domestic violence, rape, employment discrimination, sexual harassment in the workplace, and trafficking in women and girls for commercial sexual exploitation.

The human rights education programme of Minnesota Advocates brings the principles of international human rights to classrooms and provides community education on refugee and immigrant issues. Minnesota Advocates recruits and trains educators; creates and distributes curricula, lesson plans and other educational tools; and documents best practices for wider distribution. The education programme also organizes and leads training sessions, community forums, law courses and other educational opportunities for the general public.

The Minnesota Advocates death penalty project supports the work of attorneys representing death row inmates and provides education and advocacy on death penalty issues. The advocacy efforts of the death penalty project focus on opposing attempts to reintroduce capital punishment in Minnesota.

### **Participation in the work of the Council and related bodies**

During 2000-2003, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights attended and participated actively in the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and every session of the subcommission from 2000 through 2003, submitting a number of written and oral statements.

Representatives of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights attended a preparatory meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland, for the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly in January 2000 and the special session itself in New York in June 2000. Women's programme representatives also attended the Commission on the Status of Women session in March 2000. The organization focused its work at these conferences on the issue of violence against women. A delegation of four professionals represented Minnesota Advocates at the special session of the General Assembly on children in May 2002.

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

The Minnesota Advocates' women's programme worked with UNIFEM to develop a web site of resources on violence against women targeted to advocates in Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The refugee and immigrant programme receives funding from the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture to support its work in providing legal representation to torture victims and their families. In addition, the UNHCR Regional Office for the United States and Caribbean in Washington, D.C., frequently provides technical assistance to volunteer attorneys of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights who represent asylum applicants. The education programme disseminates UNICEF materials regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child and promotes ratification by the United States of that treaty.

### **Other relevant activities**

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is a leader in human rights education and promotion of the standards and mechanisms of the United Nations. Staff and volunteers of the organization promote the human rights activities of the United Nations by teaching in classrooms, speaking at events and conferences in universities, churches, and other civic forums, and by drawing the attention of the media to these issues. In 2002, Minnesota Advocates organized a community presentation on NGO participation in the United Nations.

## **6. World Alliance of Reformed Churches**

### **(Special consultative status granted in 2000)**

The aims of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches are to promote unity, theological reflection and ecumenical fellowship among Reformed, Presbyterian, Congregational and United Churches around the world; to pursue dialogue with churches of other traditions; to encourage member churches to support others who are weak, poor, or oppressed; to unite their forces in a common service wherever needed; and to promote and defend liberties and justice when threatened in the world. One of the major concerns of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches is to

promote economic justice and sustainable environment by engaging member churches to commit themselves to work for these causes. To achieve this goal, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches has held a series of regional consultations to analyse the economic and ecological situations in the region. The outcome of some of the consultations has become the basis of written interventions submitted to annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights.

### **Participation in the Council and other United Nations bodies**

The World alliance of Reformed Churches has been participating in the annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights through oral interventions and the submission of written interventions. The World Alliance of Reformed Churches also took part in the World Conference against Racism. The World Alliance of Reformed Churches cooperated with the World Trade Organization regarding economic and ecological justice. The following is a list of activities of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches:

(a) January 2000, Geneva: based on the outcome of a symposium on the consequences of economic globalization, the General Secretary wrote a letter to the Director-General of the World Trade Organization;

(b) April 2000, Geneva: the World Alliance of Reformed Churches made an oral intervention at the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights;

(c) December 2000, Geneva: the World Alliance of Reformed Churches submitted a written statement to the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights;

(d) April 2001, Geneva: the World Alliance of Reformed Churches made an oral intervention at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights;

(e) April 2001, Geneva: the World Alliance of Reformed Churches made an oral intervention at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights;

(f) April 2001, Geneva: the World Alliance of Reformed Churches made a joint oral intervention at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights;

(g) September 2001, Durban, South Africa: the World Alliance of Reformed Churches participated in the World Conference against Racism and organized a symposium on the theme "Race to judgement: when justice is blindfolded", in which more than 1,000 delegates participated;

(h) December 2001, Geneva: the World Alliance of Reformed Churches submitted a written statement to the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights;

(i) April 2002, Geneva: the World Alliance of Reformed Churches made an oral intervention at the fifty-eighth session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights;

(j) April 2003, Geneva: the World Alliance of Reformed Churches made an oral intervention at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights;

(k) April 2003, Geneva: the World Alliance of Reformed Churches made an oral intervention at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights;

(l) April 2003, Geneva: the World Alliance of Reformed Churches made a joint oral intervention at the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights.

**Self-evaluation and expression of hope**

The World Alliance of Reformed Churches has enjoyed the privilege of taking part in the activities of the Council, particularly in the annual sessions of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. This is a unique opportunity for the reformed churches around the world to bring their concerns about different issues to the United Nations. The war in Iraq, launched by the United States-led coalition on the basis of unilateralism and a pre-emptive doctrine, has seriously undermined the international and multilateral framework. The function of the United Nations therefore needs to be strengthened and respected by all Member States. In addition, the United Nations needs to pay more attention to the reform of international financial institutions so that they can be democratically managed to promote global justice in the economy and the environment. For these reasons, the World Alliance of Reformed Churches will continue to work with the United Nations.

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