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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action

Special, 2002

I. Introduction

The Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action is a regional network of feminists, researchers, activists and women's organizations that defines feminist politics as a matter involving both consciousness and action. Its members represent the entire Caribbean region and its diaspora. The organization is involved in the Caribbean women's movement, with networks in 17 Caribbean countries.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims at achieving individual and societal transformation to create a climate of social justice. It facilitates and meets the needs of the regional women's movement and encourages regional collaboration and solidarity.

B. Significant changes in the organization

During the reporting period, the organization expanded its intervention and prevention work in the area of natural disasters, which have a significant effect on women.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization holds annual International Women's Day celebrations. The organization is represented at the annual sessions of the Commission for the Status of Women, and took part in the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, held in New York in 2009.

A. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization performed research for alternative reports and collected feedback from its networks in preparation for the 15-year review of the implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, both held in 2010.

2. Catholics for Choice

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

Catholics for Choice non-profit organization engaged in education, advocacy and outreach activities in the United States of America and other countries around the world.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization seeks to establish sexual and reproductive ethics that are based on justice, reflect a commitment to women's well-being and respect and affirm the capacity of women and men to make moral decisions about their lives. It works to ensure that all people have access to safe and affordable reproductive health-care services and to infuse the core values of the organization into public policy, community life and Catholic social thinking and teaching. The organization is involved in debates on faith, women's health and reproductive justice and is committed to policy and cultural changes concerning sexuality and reproduction.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization published and submitted shadow reports to the Committee on the Rights of the Child regarding the sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy in selected countries. It participates in United Nations forums at the global and regional levels, sponsors events and partners with religious coalitions active in the United Nations system.

A. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization has built relationships with a number of United Nations missions, particularly those of European donor countries, to which it provides ongoing political analysis on the work of the Catholic Church and its allies.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization has worked with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in support of the Goals. Its aim is to convince three religious organizations each year to explicitly endorse the Millennium Goals and/or goals of the International Conference on Population and Development. It has also engaged in specific actions to raise awareness about the importance of sexual and reproductive human rights in the achievement of the Goals.

3. Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

The Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology provides education, training and technical consulting in water and sanitation to organizations working with the poor in developing countries. Its services have been used in projects to improve water and sanitation that have impacted 3.6 million people. The organization raises awareness and engages youth and communities in Canada and worldwide to become involved in water conservation.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

The aim of the organization is to breed individual successes by meeting basic water and sanitation needs. It provides technical training and consulting and acts as a centre of expertise in water and sanitation for the poor in developing countries. The organization values equitable opportunities, sustainable solutions and collaborative and inclusive processes. It also recognizes and accepts differences in cultural, religious and political processes.

B. Significant changes in the organization

During the reporting period, the organization greatly increased the size and global scope of its membership.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The organization was represented at the fourth World Water Forum, held in Mexico in 2006. It also worked in Ethiopia, Kenya and the Philippines as part of the World Health Organization network to promote household water treatment and safe storage, and was invited by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to participate in discussions on increasing household water treatment, held in New York in 2008.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

During the reporting period, the organization received assistance from UNICEF to evaluate biosand filter projects. It also provided training and consulting support and shared educational materials with civil servants in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Sierra Leone and Uganda. The organization was involved in projects run by the United

Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) in Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nepal and Viet Nam, and worked with the office of UNICEF in Afghanistan and the World Health Organization in South-East Asia.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The goals and activities of the organization are directly targeted at poverty alleviation, water and sanitation provision, education and capacity-building.

4. Centre for Women, the Earth, the Divine

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

The Centre for Women, the Earth, the Divine explores the parallels between images and the treatment of women and the Earth, and how our images of the divine relate to those parallels.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization provides education on spirituality and healing through the traditions of Christianity and other religions. It organizes talks, workshops, publications and retreats, and produces a seasonal newsletter for its membership.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

During the reporting period, the organization participated in the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Sustainable Development NGO annual conference organized by the Department of Public Information.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization sponsored events to mark World Water Day on clean and safe water, water scarcity, water rights and how those issues particularly affect women and children. It also published an article on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with reference to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In 2009, it published an article on indigenous women and climate change, based on data from the *State of World's Population 2009*, published by UNPFA.

5. China Disabled Persons' Federation

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

Established in 1988, the China Disabled Persons' Federation works for the 83 million people with disabilities in China. Headquartered in Beijing, and commissioned by the Government to supervise affairs relating to people with disabilities, it has a nationwide umbrella network reaching every part of China with about 80,000 full-time workers.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization represents the interests of people with disabilities in China, whose legitimate rights it helps protect and to whom it provides services. It is committed to promoting humanitarianism and the integration and human rights of people with disabilities.

B. Significant changes in the organization

In 2008, the former Chair of the organization was promoted to a position of State leadership, an event that improved the organization's ability to influence Government policymaking on disability. During the reporting period, the organization also increased its geographical distribution and the number of its staff.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, the organization was influential in making China one of the first States parties to the 2006 Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also made annual financial contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), events of which were sponsored by the organization. The President of the organization also visited United Nations Headquarters in New York in November 2006 to promote the 2007 Special Olympics World Summer Games, held in Shanghai.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The organization was represented at the seventh and eighth sessions of the ad hoc drafting committee for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also attended an ESCAP seminar on the Convention, held in Bangkok in July 2006, and various sessions of the Commission for Social Development. The organization was represented at the meeting held in Geneva in 2008 to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and at the

first session of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2009. The organization also participated in a seminar organized by the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council to monitor the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities of Persons with Disabilities, held in Doha in 2009.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization cooperated with the International Labour Organization to promote employment opportunities for people with mental illness and/or intellectual disability, and was involved in a project with the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the status of women with disabilities. It also worked with UNICEF on the integration of children with disabilities into the mainstream of society.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization contributed to the Goals through its efforts to improve the situation of people with disabilities in China, including programmes related to rehabilitation, education, employment and poverty alleviation.

6. Chinese Immigrants Services

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

Chinese Immigrants Services is a non-profit service-oriented organization located in New York. The organization was founded in 1984 and works to provide services to Chinese immigrants, to help them assimilate into American society and to promote the understanding between immigrants and their communities.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization provides the Chinese immigrant community with assistance and referral services, as well as free educational programmes and recreational activities. It works closely with the police and other Government agencies to protect the rights and interests of Chinese immigrants, and promotes understanding between Chinese immigrants and other ethnic groups. The organization incorporates educational and cultural exchange into its services and activities, which are attended by Chinese immigrants and other members of the community. It also publishes a free, bilingual journal.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

During the reporting period, the organization participated in sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women at United Nations Headquarters, and attended the High-level Segments of the Economic and Social Council. It was also active in the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in New York.

7. Christian Aid

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

Christian Aid works globally for a world free from poverty by, inter alia, providing practical and effective assistance to tackle the effects of poverty and its root causes. The organization works in 45 countries and maintains offices in 30 of them.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to expose and eradicate poverty by challenging structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalized, and by working with partners and in alliances to help those in need regardless of religion, ethnicity or nationality. The organization adopts an integrated approach to poverty eradication by working on humanitarian relief, long-term development, specific advocacy issues and campaigns for change and influence.

B. Significant changes in the organization

During the reporting period, the organization became the first partnership-based agency from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to be certified by the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

During the reporting period, the organization participated in the United Nations “Financing for Development” process by attending the review conference held in Doha in November 2008, and the United Nations Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, held in New York in June

2009. The organization also participated in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Geneva in 2009.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

During the reporting period, the organization engaged with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and with the United Nations Development Programme on international tax cooperation issues. It also worked with the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and was represented at meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. The organization is also a member of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction and works with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

During the reporting period, the organization conducted high-level advocacy work and campaigns on the impact of trade liberalization and financial secrecy on development, and on commitments to the Goals. It also advocated debt cancellation and aid commitments.

8. Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance

Special, 2002

I. Introduction

The Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance has more than 1,000 individual members in the Philippines, comprising families and friends of missing persons, victims themselves and human rights advocates. It has nine regional chapters and formations throughout the country.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to unite the families and friends of persons missing or found, to document cases of involuntary disappearance and to search for the disappeared. It campaigns for and supports victims and their families and works for their rehabilitation and reintegration into society. The organization's programmes include search and documentation, national and international advocacy, organization and education, welfare and rehabilitation, and livelihood and cooperative development.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization supports the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and Optional Protocol thereto. It is a member of the United Against Torture Coalition and lobbied for the enactment of

the Philippines anti-torture law of 2009. It also participated in drafting civil society parallel reports on the Convention against Torture, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

In 2008, the organization contributed to a joint NGO report, submitted in preparation for the universal periodic review of the Philippines. It also participated in a seminar on the universal periodic review process in 2007, and endorsed an alternative report on the situation of torture in the Philippines, submitted to the Committee against Torture at its forty-second session.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization reported cases of enforced disappearance in the Philippines to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and contributed at various forums for the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization granted scholarships to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women. Its honorary Chair is active in the Philippines House of Representatives and is the principal author of the Reproductive Health and Population Development Act. The organization's programme on livelihoods and cooperative development aims at reducing poverty among its members.

9. Fundación AlvarAlice

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

Established in Cali, Colombia, in 2003, the Fundación AlvarAlice is a not-for-profit organization that aims to contribute to a more equitable and peaceful Colombian society.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization supports organizations that execute projects and programmes in areas such as civic action, peacebuilding, education and income generation. Its programmes provide technical training and administrative and financial advice to help disadvantaged people acquire the skills, knowledge and capital they need to generate sustainable income.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization promotes employment and social progress in marginalized communities. It established a cultural and technological centre to help prevent violence in Cali, and funds and supports a microfinance programme that disbursed more than \$300,000 during the reporting period, mostly to single mothers and women suffering from forced displacement.

A. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization's banking, microfinance, women's empowerment and juvenile justice projects contributed to poverty alleviation in Colombia.

10. Fundación Teletón México

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

Fundación Teletón México operates a private system for children's rehabilitation through 15 rehabilitation centres and an institute of higher education in rehabilitation that can care for more than 70,000 patients. The organization operates exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to safeguard the dignity of people by providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to children with disabilities to promote their development and integration into society. It also supports other centres and organizations that provide rehabilitation, medical, educational and psychological assistance and services to disabled and/or underprivileged children, focusing on those that operate in Latin America or specialize in research, development, education and treatment in the area of paediatric cancer.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The organization participated in sessions of the Ad Hoc Preparatory Committee of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The organization works to end poverty and hunger in Mexico. It has sent supplies to countries that suffered natural disasters and carries out activities in the areas of maternal and prenatal health care.
