



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
27 October 2011  
English  
Original: French

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## Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

2012 regular session

30 January-8 February and 17 February 2012

### **Quadrennial reports for the period 2007-2010 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31**

**Note by the Secretary-General**

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## **1. Association des consommateurs de télécommunication de Côte d'Ivoire**

**(Special consultative status since 2007)**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this organization is to protect consumers' rights. Clearly, the Internet has become a new, rapidly evolving instrument of information and communication, with exceptional growth potential. As a result, consumers are exposed to a new set of regulations and need entities such as ours to protect them.

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

The purpose and objective of the organization is to defend the rights of telecommunications consumers in Côte d'Ivoire. As a result of technological developments, we believe our activities should be focused on protecting the rights of consumers of information and communications technologies. With this new approach we are tackling issues of Internet access, particularly in developing countries. We have strategic alliances with other partners to deal with such issues, especially problems with the broadband connections of African universities and primary and secondary schools. To this end, the organization helps students to acquire second-hand computers from certain countries, such as Canada, to facilitate Internet access. We are currently conducting a study to determine the significance of the legal status of the organization Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, and issues of Internet governance are also being considered. Our priorities also include the problem of the side-effects of mobile telephone use. We campaign for consumers' organizations to be given a place in telecommunications and Internet regulatory bodies worldwide.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

Initially, the organization was created to protect the rights of telecommunications users. As technology has evolved over the years, we have refocused our activities on the consumers of information and communications technologies. We also seek to expand our activities by forming privileged partnerships with our sister organizations internationally.

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

Our presence in the Council has improved our organization's credibility with its local and international partners. That credibility is so great that it has brought us seats on some of the 15 national decision-making bodies in Côte d'Ivoire. Each year, we organize events in the country to mark World Consumer Rights Day, on 22 March; World Water Day, from 22 to 24 June; and discussions on cybercrime, in partnership with other bodies. We also organized the Internet Day for Development. In 2009, jointly with an Internet access provider, we organized a survey to assess consumers' perceptions of new technology. In 2010 we conducted a study to assess the legal status of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. To increase knowledge of the Internet among young people, we found a Canadian partner who donated 300 used computers to the University of Cocody-Abidjan. These computers will be equipped with broadband Internet connections in order to conduct a pilot project in distance learning. We have prepared training modules in

beginner-level computer use at the Lycée moderne in Daoukro. We are negotiating actively with the Canadian International Development Agency to obtain a subsidy to extend this training to primary and secondary schools.

#### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

We took part in the forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development, held at New York in February 2008, and the ninth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held at New York in April 2010.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

We have taken part in the meeting of Committee II of the Telecommunication Development Bureau of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), on the importance of telemedicine in rural areas in Africa.

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

To enable other African countries to benefit from our initiative, we have obtained a donation of 600 computers from a Canadian partner. Of that number, 300 have been distributed among three schools in Gabon and 300 in Rwanda. We then gave those computers broadband Internet connections and we are working to obtain funding from the non-governmental organization ACDI to administer a training programme for marginalized young people and to provide beginner-level training in computer use to students in the aforementioned three countries (Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon and Rwanda). These actions are in response to the need to promote awareness of information and communications technologies for the development of Africa.

## **2. Association pour le développement économique, social, environnemental du nord**

**(Special consultative status since 2003)**

#### **Introduction**

This is a Senegalese non-governmental organization working throughout the country and based in Saint-Louis (Senegal).

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

The purposes and goals of this organization are the promotion of social development and the protection and preservation of the environment and natural resources. It is involved in a number of activities in the areas of combating poverty, gender equity and human rights.

#### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The organization advocates respect for and compliance with commitments entered into by States at United Nations international conferences such as the United

Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992; the World Summit for Social Development in 1995; the Fourth World Conference on Women, held at Beijing in 1995; the Millennium Declaration of 2000, which is the basis of the Millennium Development Goals; and the International Conference on Financing for Development, held at Monterrey (Mexico) in 2002. To that end, the organization belongs to an international network of civil society organizations, Social Watch, whose secretariat is based in Montevideo. Social Watch holds governments, the United Nations and international organizations accountable for the implementation of national, regional and international commitments relating to the eradication of poverty. It contributes to the Social Watch annual report, which reviews progress in compliance with undertakings entered into by States at major United Nations conferences. This report is an important instrument of the organization in promoting awareness of United Nations objectives and influencing political thinking in the area of combating poverty.

#### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

In 2008, the organization was represented at the Global Civil Society Forum in Doha and at the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

En 2009, the organization was represented at the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva, to assess progress towards the goals agreed at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. It was also represented at the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York, on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization is accredited at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and its members are involved in reforestation activities to prevent desertification. In 2008, the organization observed the World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought, on the subject of "Combating Land Degradation for Sustainable Agriculture".

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

The organization is promoting awareness of the need to achieve the Goals, jointly with Social Watch, through the latter's annual international report. In 2008, the two organizations observed the International Year of Sanitation, to increase awareness of sanitation issues and accelerate progress towards the goal of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

#### **Additional information**

The organization observed the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty in 2010, and celebrates International Earth Day every year.

### **3. Bangwe et dialogue**

**(Special consultative status since 2007)**

#### **Introduction**

This organization works towards peace and non-violence in the Great Lakes subregion of Africa. Its name refers to principles and conflict resolution mechanisms in the traditions of Burundi, where it was customary for elders to intervene in conflicts at various levels. If the parties turned a deaf ear, women would become involved, bringing the dispute to a swift end. This organization was created in September 1998 by a group of women who were active in non-governmental organizations working with the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, in the spirit of the recommendations of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, on women's role in campaigning for peace. A support committee works from Geneva to seek sources of funding, ensure the successful operation of initiatives in the field and coordinate the entire project. The association was registered in Burundi in October 2007. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, recognized committees and networks are active in South Kivu, Kisangani and Kinshasa. The organization's main areas of action are human rights, peace, democracy, peaceful conflict resolution, gender equality and socio-economic development.

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

The overall objective of the organization is to advocate for peace and non-violence as a peaceful approach to conflict resolution, referring to traditional African values which have proved their worth. Its various goals are as follows: to support the women of the countries concerned in their actions to promote peace and reconciliation through education for peace, dialogue and the development of socio-economic or humanitarian projects at the local level; to show solidarity with population groups which have suffered as a result of war, especially those living in difficult conditions as in the case of displaced women; to combat violence against women during armed conflicts, particularly sexual crimes, through the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

#### **Significant changes in the organization**

Changes in the organization since it achieved special consultative status with the Council relate to the strengthening of structures for improved functioning; a higher profile for its activities and improved acceptance of advocacy by a number of partners, particularly non-governmental organizations with similar goals; and new initiatives in information and communications.

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

Efforts in education for peace and peaceful conflict resolution take place at a number of levels. During summer holidays in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, 80 young war victims are trained, an average of 25 for each country. In villages where the organization is based, women organize training in reconciliation and non-violent communication based on the socio-economic projects that have been developed. At the subregional level, activities involve participation in 21 September, a day devoted to peace and to meetings in the framework of the

United Nations Conference of the Great Lakes region of Africa. Internationally and in Switzerland, the organization has taken part in the meetings of the Berne centre for the promotion of peace, the activities of the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and the annual seminar on disarmament and arms control organized by a non-governmental organization. In New York, it has taken part in the activities of the United Nations University. The organization has conducted a number of activities in the framework of the Council, particularly on the promotion and protection of human rights, gender equality and combating racism. Its other contributions are participation in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and a number of meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women. Lastly, it takes part in the commemorations of the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda, which took place in 1994.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization has taken place in various meetings and sessions of the Council in Geneva, in addition to the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, held in 2009 in Geneva. It jointly organized an interactive workshop on the rights of the child in situations of armed conflict, in April 2009, and the first forum on the economic and social rights of women, together with the non-governmental organization OCAPROCE International. It also took part in the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and in April 2010, in Geneva, it organized a work and training mission for nine of its women representatives in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

In 2005, the organization took part in meetings in New York to mark the fifth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). In the Great Lakes countries of Africa, it cooperates with other partners to influence the implementation of the Plan of Action at the country and subregional levels. At the civil-society level, it cooperates in terms of the agendas, structures and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council. It has observer status at the annual conferences of the World Health Organization (WHO). It has also taken part in campaigns to combat HIV/AIDS, and in 2006, 2007 and 2008 it provided funding for an association which is active in that campaign in Burundi. It is active in the various campaigns organized by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), on issues of concern to those organizations: gender mainstreaming and combating female genital mutilation. In 2009, the organization took part in the meetings organized in Geneva by the Economic Commission for Europe, on migration and trafficking in women.

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

The organization is a member of the Working Group on Women and Health of the Commission on the Status of Women. It has also contributed significantly to the achievement of other goals: the reduction of extreme poverty and hunger. Local projects on improving agricultural yields have been conducted in five different areas in Burundi, where there have also been two other projects relating to access to nutrition for children in a camp for internally displaced people and for HIV/AIDS

orphans. The Committee of the Organization for Peace and Development in Bukavu, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has developed a microcredit project which helps around 15 families to fight extreme poverty. In the educational field, access to primary school has improved greatly in the three countries. As for secondary education, the organization makes modest contributions through a project entitled Bangwe Education.

#### **Additional information**

Any voluntary activity involves limitations of scale. Whether at the general coordination level or in the field, the management and implementation of the various projects require considerable professionalism, and access to the required know-how demands resources that this organization does not possess.

#### **4. Centre d'accompagnement des autochtones pygmées et minoritaires vulnérables**

**(Special consultative status since 2003)**

##### **Introduction**

Since May 2009, the organization has had consultative observer status at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, accreditation at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), in particular on the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore. The organization is a member of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union, and since December 2009 it has represented African civil society on the Policy Board of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries.

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

There have been no significant changes.

##### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

In January 2007, a written submission was made to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination concerning the official request for the establishment of an early warning and emergency measures procedure, and additional information on the report of a State party, the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

##### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization made oral and written statements at the sixth, seventh and ninth sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held at New York. In December 2009, it made an oral and written statement at a meeting on climate change held in Copenhagen, the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, organized by the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. A

representative of the organization made oral and written statements at the third to sixth meetings of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries. In November 2009, a representative of the organization made oral and written statements at the sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Montreal, Canada.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

Representatives of the organization took part in missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in January 2009, and in Brazzaville in August 2010, organized jointly by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, the World Bank and the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, in support of national efforts to reduce emissions, to strengthen mechanisms for coordination, dialogue and commitment by the stakeholders of that Programme.

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

The organization has contributed to the achievement of the Goals by providing schooling for 2,345 indigenous pygmy children, for a period of four years, in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

#### **Additional information**

The International Day of the World's Indigenous People was held in August 2008, 2009 and 2010 in the towns of Bukavu, Goma and Beni, in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Events included lectures, marches involving 4,067 indigenous pygmies and traditional dancing.

### **5. Comité français pour l'Afrique du Sud**

**(Special consultative status since 2007)**

#### **Introduction**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The purpose of this organization is to provide factual information for studies on the historical process taking place in South Africa since the end of apartheid in 1994. Many exchanges have taken place to this end.

#### **Significant changes in the organization**

The organization publishes newsletters, distributed electronically once or twice a month, depending on events. They contain cultural, economic, social and legal information relevant to the country's evolution since the end of apartheid in 1994. These newsletters are intended to provide factual information for studies on the historical process taking place in South Africa since the end of apartheid in 1994. A website contains documents including data on the prehistory of a country which is



considered to be linked to one of the birthplaces of humanity, on its contemporary history, the struggle against racism, health care policy in relation to HIV/AIDS, economic and social development and ecological issues. The newsletters can be read on the website, which also contains reports on conferences convened by the organization.

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

The organization has accredited representatives in New York and Geneva. It took part in the 2008 session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York, and has attended meetings at the United Nations Office at Geneva. It has also submitted written contributions to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in November 2010, on the subject of “International cooperation and the Internet”, and to the Council, in April 2010, on “Developing community services in the fields of education, housing and health care in times of crisis”.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

There have been no significant changes.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization works with the Legal Resources Centre in South Africa, particularly on the subject of constitutional development, and takes part in its meetings. It was a guest at a conference in Paris in November 2010, organized by the ambassadors of the Southern African Development Community, on the development of the Southern African subregion.

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

During the Rugby World Cup in 2007, the organization organized a debate on the subject of “Sport and integration”, with the participation of numerous French high-school students and representatives of French and South African sports. In 2010, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the liberation of Nelson Mandela, the organization invited George Bizos, Nelson Mandela’s lawyer during the major trials of the 1960s, to Paris, to speak on the gradual construction of democratic transition in South Africa through court proceedings and during the long imprisonment of Nelson Mandela. The memory of the great campaigner Helen Suzman was also honoured during the conference.

### **Additional information**

The Committee is planning to organize a conference on investment and sustainable development in Southern Africa.

## **6. Dianova International**

**(General consultative status since 2007)**

### **Introduction**

The organization is present in 10 countries: Canada, Chile, Italy, Nicaragua, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America and Uruguay.

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

There have been no significant changes.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The activities of the organization have contributed to the following bodies:

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), for the education of disadvantaged children and adolescents (Chile, Nicaragua, Spain, the United States of America and Uruguay);
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), to create a network for the treatment and prevention of addiction;
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on promoting awareness of the need for environmental protection and sustainable development (Nicaragua, Spain, the United States of America and Uruguay);
- The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), for a mother-and-child programme for people in social difficulties and the recovery of parental relations and empowerment (Chile).

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization was represented at the fifty-first to fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held at Vienna between 2008 and 2011; at the regional consultations of UNODC and of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations for Vienna on the subject of drugs, held in 2007 and 2008; and the NGO World Forum on the International Year of the Family in 2008 and 2009. The organization was represented at the forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions of the Commission for Social Development and at the Civil Society Development Forum. Representatives also took part in drafting the recommendations submitted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Council in 2010, and at the sports camp entitled "Global Sport Youth" organized by UNODC in December 2010.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

In 2008, the organization prepared oral and written statements and informal discussions with officials at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, UNODC and the Drug Supervisory Body, as well as a presentation and Web publication on best practices for the association of regional networks of non-governmental organizations accredited with the Council targeting at-risk adolescents and mothers and children.

In 2010, the organization implemented a project with UNESCO to promote awareness of the protection of natural resources and the development of new sustainable production techniques. It also celebrated the United Nations world days against HIV/AIDS; of women; against drug abuse and trafficking; and of youth.

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

- **Goal 2.** The organization has founded a school in Nicaragua to provide completely free education from the age of six to 18 years.
- **Goal 5.** The organization funds free care for women and minors with difficult addictions in Chile, and is implementing policies to promote gender equality.
- **Goal 6.** The organization is taking part in projects on HIV/AIDS, focusing on education and awareness among individuals and users, as well as targeted campaigns for schools and businesses.
- **Goal 7.** The organization is involved in the reintroduction of local species in Nicaragua; the preservation of biodiversity in Uruguay; environmental awareness campaigns for children aged from six to 10 in Spain; and the implementation of the management criteria of the Global Reporting Initiative in Italy, Portugal and Spain.
- **Goal 8.** The organization is setting up a solidarity partnership to provide water and electric power supplies at a school in Nicaragua.

### **Additional information**

The organization's manifesto shows the global framework of its social commitment, in accordance with United Nations objectives.

## **7. Fondation Congo Assistance**

**(Special consultative status since 2007)**

### **Introduction**

The objective of this organization, founded in Brazzaville in 1984, is to promote social action in the Republic of the Congo in the areas of education and job training and of health care, particularly combating the major pandemics, multifaceted development through gender dynamics, nutrition, peace-building and multifaceted aid, all oriented towards the mother-and-child relationship, young people and older persons.

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

There have been no significant changes.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

There have been no significant changes.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

In 2007, members of the organization took part in the ordinary session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. In 2008, women representing the organization took part in the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of

Women and the sixty-first session of the Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization has campaigned vigorously since 2004 to ensure that priority in public-health policy is given to sickle cell disease, one of the world's major congenital disorders. It has committed financially and human resources to the adoption of a General Assembly resolution on this disorder. General Assembly resolution 63/237 of 22 December 2008, which considers sickle cell disease to be a public health problem, reflected a major contribution by the organization to the work of the United Nations. Pursuant to the resolution, 19 June of each year is now World Sickle Cell Day, and in 2009, the organization and other bodies marked the first such event at United Nations headquarters. In September 2010, during the Millennium +5 Summit, the organization held an event relating to innovative and durable financing mechanisms for the treatment of sickle cell disease. Representatives of Member States, including the Prime Minister of Togo, of organizations such as Roll Back Malaria and of pharmaceutical companies such as Sanofi Aventis took part in the event. Representatives of the organization also attended meetings of the General Assembly in 2008, 2009 and 2010. In February 2008, the organization provided technical and financial support to the peace mission of African First Ladies for the holding in Brazzaville of its sixth conference. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), that conference adopted the concept of civil and humanitarian diplomacy bringing about the involvement of women in the prevention and management of conflicts. In December 2009, a representative of the organization took part in the work of non-governmental organizations during the United Nations Conference on Climate Change, held in Copenhagen. The organization was also represented at side events held during the African Union summits at Kampala in July 2010, including the campaign for a rapid reduction in maternal mortality in Africa.

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

On 25 November 2010, at UNESCO headquarters, the organization jointly organized a symposium on water and women in Africa, in partnership with UNESCO and the organization CILAF Femmes de Demain. The organization contributed to the achievement of the Goals at the national level by mobilizing financial resources and helping with the implementation of income-generating activities in the interest of disadvantaged population groups. These activities include: providing a financial guarantee of 130 million CFA francs (approximately US\$ 250,000 dollars) to cover microcredits granted by a Congolese mutualist entity to approximately 100 women living with HIV/AIDS, enabling them to start up income-generating microprojects; the supply of milk substitutes to women who are HIV-positive and therefore cannot breastfeed; and a partnership agreement with the BCME Bank Foundation, taking a multidimensional approach to combating poverty by improving education. A community school is being built in a rural community in the Republic of the Congo. In 2009, the organization promoted regular access to high-quality drinking water for the people of the Congolese town of Mbomo, by means of drilling and the provision of hydrants to the population.

## **8. Fondation Humanus**

**(Special consultative status since 2007)**

### **Introduction**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The organization's mission is to work towards complete dignity and promote economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The organization has pursued an annual training programme in human-rights advocacy: training, surveying and report writing. The programme teaches all United Nations human rights instruments, and takes an active role by providing dozens of campaigners with the technical tools they need for the efficiency and relevance of their actions in the field. In the framework of this programme, the organization has published annual reports on the situation of human rights and a legal aid manual.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

In September 2007, the organization took part in the United Nations Democracy Caucus, a side event during the session of the General Assembly, thanks to indirect funding from the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF). In November 2008, the organization participated in the seventh session of the Assembly of States parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. UNODC has invited the organization to some 20 sessions and conferences of States parties (the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime). It has received annual invitations from the Commission on the Status of Women to its sessions in New York. Unfortunately, the organization is unable to attend large numbers of conferences owing to limited financial resources.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

Every year, the organization conducts activities to celebrate Human Rights Day, in collaboration with the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, based in Yaoundé, with which the organization cooperates regularly. It was also involved in mobilizing voters for the parliamentary and municipal elections in Cameroon in 2007 and then for the presidential election in 2011, with financial support from UNDP. The organization regularly replies to questionnaires, reports and documents from UNODC. Given their close collaboration, the organization contributes yearly to the activities of the International Criminal Court. In 2007 and 2008, it organized two advocacy campaigns for Cameroon to ratify the Rome Statute. In 2008 and 2009, it sent reports on the situation of human rights in Cameroon to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) in Geneva. In 2007, it

requested and received plentiful documentation from UNHCHR to strengthen its current programme for the training of campaigners. The organization has also regularly interacted electronically with a variety of United Nations bodies; provided answers to their e-mails; and answered a variety of surveys.

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

In 2008, the organization revised its strategic orientations to focus on promoting economic, social and cultural rights. This change of direction towards a more materialistic view of human dignity, enables the organization to contribute effectively to the Goals. For example, it has created a programme on the rights to drinking water and to human dignity, and a project to provide improved wells in the rural area of Galim, in western Cameroon.

### **Additional information**

The organization regularly participates in a variety of activities and conferences organized by bodies which contribute to the ideals of the United Nations, such as the World Movement for Democracy and the International Criminal Court.

## **9. France libertés: Fondation Danielle Mitterrand**

**(Special consultative status since 1991)**

### **Introduction**

The organization works to promote recognition and respect for human rights worldwide. Since its creation, it has supported oppressed peoples in their struggles, minorities which are not represented by States, and those who have no voice in the defence of their right to self-determination. This is the historic battle waged by the organization for the rights of ethnic minorities living under authoritarian regimes (Kurds, Tuaregs, Quechuas, Karens, Tibetans), in their emblematic campaigns to safeguard their cultures, their memories, their economic development and natural resources. Thanks to its consultative status in the Human Rights Council, the organization can enable them to speak up in that body to denounce the refusal of States to recognize the political, civil, social and cultural rights of peoples; at the same time, it conducts field projects to help those oppressed population groups.

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

The organization was created by Danielle Mitterrand in 1986. From its beginnings, it defended human rights and supported the resistance of oppressed peoples and individuals. It engaged actively in major struggles such as supporting the Tibetan people and the resistance to apartheid in South Africa. It took part in significant aid projects for the countries of the South, such as the reconstruction of the education system in Cambodia, the affirmation of Kurdish identity and the fight against HIV/AIDS. The organization conducts its activities on the basis of three programmes: “Water, a shared asset of humanity”; “Reconsidering wealth”; and “Peoples’ rights”. For the first, the organization regularly addresses public and political forums to support concrete proposals; it has also adopted a mission to take practical action in the field to promote access to water for all. Lastly, its activities are accompanied by the promotion of awareness, information and mobilization of

citizens on major water-related issues. As for the second programme, the organization believes that the scale and frequency of crises (ecological, social, economic and financial) which shake the modern world are dramatic proof of the limitations of the dominant economic model. The organization advocates an alternative development model based on fundamental human and ecological principles. It campaigns for non-mercantile and non-monetary wealth to be taken into account in an alternative development model. Under the third programme, the organization supports oppressed peoples around the world, minorities which are not represented by States, and those who have no say in their own lives.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The organization acts as a consultant for other non-governmental organizations which have benefited from its work in the field. For example, when Chile appeared before the Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the organization helped and advised civil-society associations in the country in the drafting and presentation of alternative reports on the situation of the Mapuche people. One highlight of the organization's work relates to human-rights education in the broadest sense. This education is given in a very practical manner, through participation by the recipients in its delegation at sessions of the Human Rights Council and the various committees where it is represented, such as the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Of equal importance is its participation and advocacy in the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization has made individual and joint oral statements at every session of the Human Rights Council, during the interactive dialogue or the general debate, particularly concerning the report of UNHCHR; arbitrary detention, the right to water and violations of economic and social rights by multinational corporations; the legal situation of the non-self-governing territory of Western Sahara and humanitarian law in the case of the Tamil people; the Vienna Declaration and self-determination; and racial discrimination. During the period under consideration, the organization submitted numerous written communications, some of them drafted jointly. It has also participated in many side events on a variety of subjects, such as human rights in Sri Lanka, in Western Sahara and in Iraq; the criminalization of the Mapuche people in Chile; and the human rights of refugees.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

During the period under consideration, the organization maintained contacts with the office of UNHCHR and its special procedures, with which the organization collaborates closely, acting as an intermediary for the transmission of reliable information, verified by the organization itself, which it receives from entities working in the field.

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

The organization's activities and campaigns focus more specifically on certain Goals, such as reducing poverty and hunger, universal primary education, gender equality and empowerment of women, reducing infant mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, environmental protection and the establishment of a worldwide partnership for development.

## **10. Human Rights National Circle**

**(Special consultative status since 2007)**

### **Introduction**

The organization, founded in 1999 and based in Yaoundé, protects and promotes human rights. Its activities cover the 12 countries of the Central African subregion.

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

The organization promotes understanding and awareness of respect for human dignity and the protection and promotion of rights. Its purpose is to promote good governance, justice, equality and democracy. It combats corruption, misappropriation of funds and bad financial management. Its activities are aimed at conflict prevention and resolution in Africa and worldwide.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

Through seminars, symposiums and conferences, the organization promotes awareness of and denounces violations of the rights of children and women; of economic, social, cultural and educational rights; of rights relating to health and habitat; and the rights of refugees, immigrants and displaced persons. It campaigns for conflict prevention and resolution.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization participated in a conference organized by UNDP and the Central Africa Centre for Human Rights and Democracy, held in Yaoundé in 2008.

In 2009, it took part in a seminar and conference organized by the International Criminal Court, held in Yaoundé, and a meeting of human rights bodies against torture, held in Brazzaville.

The organization participated in the meeting and seminar on the Millennium Development Goals held in Yaoundé in 2010.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

During the period under consideration, the organization submitted to the United Nations a project on combating the sale and trafficking of Beninese and Togolese children, which did not have a successful outcome. It is still awaiting the



response to another project, on protecting the prison population, which was submitted to UNDP.

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

The organization participated in a conference for the establishment of an African single currency; a meeting and seminar on the free circulation of persons and goods in the African zone; a meeting and seminar for job creation and assistance for refugees, immigrants and displaced persons in Central Africa; and symposiums on preventing environmental destruction and pollution in Central Africa.

### **Additional information**

During the period under consideration, the organization collaborated with all United Nations bodies, to which it regularly reported on its activities.

## **11. International Abolitionist Federation**

**(General consultative status since 1995)**

### **Introduction**

The organization was founded in the United Kingdom in 1875 at the initiative of Josephine Butler, who was revolted by the social injustice inherent in prostitution. Currently, prostitution and sexual abuse continue to develop owing to poverty and violence against women.

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

The purpose of the organization is to abolish the criminalization and penalization of prostitutes; the regulation or legalization of prostitution by public authorities; and trafficking in humans, which is considered as a crime against humanity. It advocates combating the relations of power and domination which make possible such exploitation, as well as the demand for prostitution.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

The use of mobile telephones and the Internet now permits organized-crime networks and pimps to conduct all types of trafficking rapidly and on a large scale. The means for combating the sex industry remain inadequate, particularly in the light of this current trend.

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

The organization, which is affected by serious financial difficulties, has been unable to be physically present at United Nations meetings. Associations in its network are strongly involved in the World March of Women Against Poverty and Gender Violence. Every day, on the five continents, groups are active against situations of distress and injustice. The March also seeks to promote the five aspects of the Women's Global Charter for Humanity (equality, freedom, solidarity, justice, and peace), which coincide with the values of the United Nations.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

While the organization cannot be physically present, it is in contact and networking with other non-governmental organizations whose goals are similar to its own; they are therefore able to transmit our observations, analyses and proposals in a variety of forums.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

One of the organization's main objectives remains the implementation of the Convention on the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others. To that end, it is continually in contact with its network to ensure that its members' activities are inspired by the principles of that Convention.

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

In relation to the Goals, the organization relies on the definition of health as determined by the World Health Organization. It campaigns for health education for physical, psychological, social and environmental well-being to act as a powerful lever for the prevention of all violence. The organization notes that violence makes humans vulnerable to all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation.

### **Additional information**

We consider the human body to be inalienable.

## **12. International Association of Charities**

**(Special consultative status since 2003)**

### **Introduction**

The organization is currently represented in 52 countries. The most recent additions are the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Ghana and Taiwan Province of China, where the strengthening, training and support of volunteers are a major challenge for the organization. Membership of an international organization is a major boost for the rights of the volunteers, who are themselves women living in distressing circumstances.

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

There have been no significant changes.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

The organization has given priority to all aspects of education. It has also adopted the systemic change method, which takes a global approach to all situations of poverty. It is in this perspective that it trains its volunteers to enable them to respond to different forms of poverty with transforming, creative projects.

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

The organization responds to the various questionnaires submitted to it. It organized a workshop during the Annual Conference of the Department of Public

Information for Non-Governmental Organizations, held in Paris in September 2008, on the situation of widows in Africa. It has contributed to the work of UNESCO through personal statements and written submissions. It implements projects relating to migrants, refugees, older persons, HIV/AIDS orphans, street children, children imprisoned with their parents and children of alcoholic parents, with twinned projects in Germany and Ukraine. The organization took part in campaigns for the creation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention Concerning Decent Work for Domestic Workers. It responded to the consultation of June 2010 in preparation for the Millennium +5 Summit, held in September 2010.

#### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization took part in the Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations in New York (September 2007), Paris (September 2008) and Mexico (September 2009). Every year, it participates in the Commission on the Status of Women, and it has taken part in the Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization was represented on the Joint Programme Commission NGO/UNESCO “Dialogue of cultures for Peace” and on other commissions. It has collaborated with UNESCO (Madagascar) in the field of education for all, and with the World Food Programme for the distribution of food to victims of natural disasters.

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

All the organization’s activities are in line with the Goals. One example is its collaboration with the “Dream” programme to support mothers suffering from AIDS in Cameroon. It is also involved in governments’ campaigns against malaria through the distribution of mosquito nets (Madagascar and Mozambique). It helps to combat extreme poverty and hunger through training and rural development programmes (for example, a coffee planting project with indigenous women in Viet Nam). Through twinnings, (Cuba and Spain, Haiti and Italy, Madagascar and the United States of America) it works to achieve the eighth Goal.

### **13. International Federation of ACAT**

**(Special consultative status since 1995)**

#### **Introduction**

The organization has worked with governments for the implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. It supports the work of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The organization is campaigning for universal ratification of the Convention and declarations relating to its articles 21 et 22 and for universal ratification of the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The organization informs its members of United Nations activities relating to its mandate, and its

website provides information on international legal instruments and the various United Nations bodies with which it collaborates.

**Aims and purposes of the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

**Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

During the period under consideration, representatives of the organization attended the fourth to fifteenth sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, and made written and oral contributions on thematic and geographical agenda items relating to torture and capital punishment. Their written statements related to the Universal Periodic Reviews concerning Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France and Luxembourg. Their oral statements were on torture, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the situation in Cameroon, the human rights of migrants in detention centres and the Universal Periodic Review of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The organization also organized a side event during the seventh session of the Council in 2008 on the role of doctors in combating torture, and another during the fourteenth session in 2010, on secret detention. During the period under consideration, the organization was represented at the first to eighth sessions of Universal Periodic Reviews. In 2009, the organization published a report entitled “Universal Periodic Reviews: an ambivalent exercise”. In the context of Universal Periodic Reviews, it submitted to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council a contribution on the situation of torture and ill-treatment wherever a member association existed in the State under review. The organization cooperates with special procedures, particularly the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization maintains a relationship with the office of UNHCHR and provides information to its officials. Where UNHCHR has an office in a country where there is a member association, the latter maintains a relationship with that office. The organization monitors the work of the Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee. It submitted to the Committee against Torture alternative reports on Benin and Luxembourg in 2007 and on Belgium in 2008. It has submitted reports to that Committee on the situations in France, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. In 2009, the organization submitted an alternative report on Chad to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture. It has submitted to the Committee against Torture contributions on the Philippines and Spain and, in 2010, alternative reports on Cameroon and France.

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

There have been no significant changes.

**14. International Federation of Associations of the Elderly**

**(General consultative status since 1991)**

**Introduction**

The organization is entirely made up of associations of older persons, and represents them to major international organizations. It is present on all five continents and currently comprises 60 associations. At the organizational level, its network enables it to multiply its actions in the world's five major regions: Europe (France, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Spain), Asia (China, Viet Nam), Africa (Cameroon, Republic of the Congo, Senegal), Latin America (Colombia, Mexico, Peru) and the Pacific region (Madagascar and Mauritius).

**Aims and purposes of the organization**

The goal of the organization is to establish relationships with international forums such as the United Nations, UNESCO, WHO and the Council of Europe, to increase awareness of the needs and aspirations of older persons, proposing goals and solutions in order to create awareness of and respond to those needs and aspirations. Faced with the rapid evolution of modern society and the continuing rise in average life expectancy, the organization has adopted the following objectives: to ensure that older persons can enjoy full citizenship; to protect their material and moral interests; to promote and contribute to studies and research; to develop international exchanges among member associations; and to encourage sharing of experiences and information among older persons' associations in member countries.

**Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

Throughout the period under consideration, the organization participated in the work of the various international forums and the European conference of non-governmental organizations. Its scientific council worked on a number of studies, focusing on the painful problem of financial ill-treatment of older persons. In this last area it has brought to light, through surveys in various countries, seriously dysfunctional financial protection of older persons and has put forward some possible solutions.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization took part in the forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development on the promotion of full employment, held in New York from 6 to 15 February 2008.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization's scientific council undertook a number of studies and research projects, including studies on the financial ill-treatment of older persons, which took place with funding from the Council of Europe; reflections on older persons and the law; the publication of a booklet on habitats and older persons, funded by UNESCO; and a contribution to the study conducted on behalf of the Mediator of the French Republic on the financial ill-treatment of older persons.

The organization brought about the construction of a residence and care centre in Douala, Cameroon, and formed a partnership with the ACARE association in Mexico to create a university for older persons in Monterrey. In 2010, the organization supported a project for international exchanges between retirement homes, launched by a Hungarian association.

The organization sponsored the international symposium in Santiago, Chile, organized in 2010 by the French association REIACTIS, on the power of older persons in public life.

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

The organization considers that among the Goals, the issue of the well-being of older persons is a major development factor. Thus, it has focused its priorities on finding solutions to the financial ill-treatment of older persons, a serious problem which is damaging to older persons' security and integrity. The organization is actively involved in drafting a charter of older persons' legal rights, which it will advocate in United Nations bodies.

## **15. International Network of Basin Organizations**

**(Special consultative status since 2007)**

### **Introduction**

The organization now has 188 members in 68 countries.

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

There have been no significant changes.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

The organization now incorporates two additional regional networks: the network of basin organizations of North America, whose permanent technical secretariat is provided by Quebec Province, Canada; and the network of basin organizations of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, whose secretariat is based in Tashkent.

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

During the international forum on the effects of climate change on water, held in Washington D.C. on 28 and 29 January 2010, the Permanent Technical Secretary presented the recommendations of the organization's Worldwide General Assembly on adapting to the impact of climate change on the basins. That event was part of

the preparation process for the sixteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Cancún, Mexico, from 29 November to 10 December 2010.

#### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The Permanent Technical Secretary of the organization gave an introductory presentation on the financing of worldwide integrated water resource management to the Commission on Sustainable Development during its session from 5 to 16 May 2008.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

In April 2008, the Permanent Technical Secretary presented new approaches during the national dialogue for integrated water resource management held in Kyiv, Ukraine, at the initiative of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and of UNEP.

The organization was designated, together with UNESCO, as the coordinator of the theme of water basin management and cross-border cooperation for the World Water Forum, held in Istanbul from 16 to 22 March 2009. The organization led a seminar on cross-border water management, held in Tunis from 26 to 30 October and organized by the African Water Facility and the African Development Bank. In 2010, the organization produced a guide to the management of cross-border aquifers jointly with UNESCO and took part in the data management project in two cross-border basins in Central Asia and Eastern Europe, in the framework of activities relating to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. The organization also participated in a conference, held from 11 to 15 October 2010 at the headquarters of the Asian Development Bank, on the problems and solutions of the water crisis.

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

From 2008 to 2010, the organization mobilized the expertise of river basin organizations to launch pilot projects, such as integrated water resource management in the pilot basin of the Dong Nai in Viet Nam; support for river basin managers in Bulgaria in the preparation of programmes of measures and management plans under the European Union Water Framework Directive; the drafting of general frameworks for river basins in the State of Tocantins, Brazil; a water resource security programme in the Ibar river basin, Kosovo, in the framework of a World Bank project; and the implementation of the Directive and economic instruments in Bulgaria. It also organized the establishment of the Regional Water Observatory of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).