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Addendum

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1. National Association of Realtors

Special, 1989

Introduction

The National Association of Realtors is the largest trade association in the United States of America, with 1 million members involved in real estate.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The association is a leading advocate of the right to own, use and transfer real property. It provides a facility for professional development, research and exchange of information among its members, the public and Government for the purpose of preserving the free enterprise system and the right to own, use and transfer real property.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The support of the association for the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations has largely been pursued with and/or through support for various organizations closely associated and/or created by the association, including the International Housing Coalition, the International Real Property Foundation and the Leonard P. Reaume Memorial Foundation. These groups support the goals of the United Nations, in particular General Assembly resolutions involving issues of shelter, urban development, property rights, housing policy and finance. The association has successfully advocated for the United States Congress to grant voluntary contributions to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and funding for water programmes in support of the Millennium Development Goals. It has supported relevant United Nations goals since 1976, when it participated in the first United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. In the intervening years it has supported and testified before Congress in support of the United Nations Global Strategy for Shelter, forming a close relationship with UN-Habitat.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The association participated in the following meetings:

(a) The fifth World Urban Forum, held in March 2010 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at which the association provided administrative and financial support to sponsor two networking sessions on the themes of “Slum improvement: a development opportunity” and “Dysfunctional property markets: a development challenge”;

(b) The sixth World Urban Forum, held in September 2012 in Naples, Italy.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In 2011, the International Housing Coalition, with support from the Reaume Foundation (a non-profit organization dedicated to fostering education) co-sponsored the urban poverty student research competition, focused on reducing urban poverty. Graduate students worldwide submitted papers on the topics of land markets, health or food security. Due to the success of the competition, it is now an annual event, with new topics chosen each year within the focus on urban poverty. In March 2011, working with the International Housing Coalition and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the association hosted a round table with the Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

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

The association provided a written statement for the High-level segment and annual ministerial review of the Economic and Social Council in 2012 on the positive effects land and property rights can have on the goals of eliminating poverty, promoting equity and stimulating sustainable economic growth. The association was present at the meeting and prepared to make oral remarks.

Additional information

Specific advocacy on legislation in Congress from 2009 to 2012 includes:

(a) Support for revision of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 governing all United States foreign assistance programmes. The association was influential in developing two pieces of draft legislation: the Foreign Assistance Act of 2010 and its successor the Global Partnerships Act of 2011;

(b) The association advocated for legislation in Congress addressing urbanization and slum issues. It actively supported the Shelter, Land and Urban Management (SLUM) Assistance Act of 2009. The association and the International Housing Coalition also supported the introduction of the Paul Simon Water for the World Act, a companion bill to the earlier Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, both designating funding to water and sanitation projects for the urban poor;

(c) The association continued to advocate in Congress for maintaining foreign assistance funding and against disproportionate cuts to the budget of the United States Agency for International Development.

2. National Board of Catholic Women of England and Wales

Special, 2001

Introduction

The National Board of Catholic Women of England and Wales has continued to work nationally and internationally to improve the position of women.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization is a forum for Catholic women to share their views and concerns. It actively promotes the presence, participation and responsibilities of

Catholic women in the church and in society. It works nationally and internationally to challenge discrimination and promote the rights of women. It works ecumenically with women of other faiths and with secular groups.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

No contribution was specified.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization attended the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 2-13 March 2009 in New York and provided a written submission with Caritas International.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

No cooperation was specified.

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

No activities were specified.

Additional information

There is no additional information.

3. National Council of Women of Canada

Special, 1997

Introduction

The National Council of Women of Canada was founded in 1893. The council has a membership base from across Canada and is a member of the International Council of Women.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The mission of the council is to empower all women to work together towards improving the quality of life for women, families and society through a forum of member organizations and individuals. The organization works to improve conditions of life for women, families and communities

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The major contribution of the council has been attendance at and participation in the Commission on the Status of Women. The council sent a delegation to all four of the annual sessions from 2009 to 2012 and produced a blog for the fifty-fourth, fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission in 2010, 2011 and 2012. The blogs were an important way of sharing information before, during and after the sessions of the Commission. Articles with photographs were prepared during this period for the council newsletters.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The council took part in the fifty-third to fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 2009, March 2010, March 2011 and March 2012 respectively.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The council followed the Global Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) Campaign, which had been advocating for five years for the creation of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). It supported the strengthening of the gender architecture at the United Nations.

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

The organization has taken the following initiatives:

(a) Goal 1. The council worked on increasing awareness of the situation facing aboriginal peoples in Canada, their lack of adequate housing, clean water, basic education and health services and depressed living conditions. A resolution was passed in 2009 which formed the basis for a brief entitled “Urgent and critical need to provide safe and adequate housing and infrastructure for aboriginal peoples”. The council also approved a national food security policy;

(b) Goals 4 and 5. In 2012, the council approved a policy for overseas development assistance and sexual and reproductive health services;

(c) Goal 7. In 2009, the council approved a policy recommending the cessation of irresponsible production of oil from tar sands in Canada.

4. National Council of Women of Malta

Special, 2005

Introduction

The National Council of Women of Malta is a voluntary organization open to all women working with nationally affiliated organizations to improve the lives and opportunities for women. The council works within the framework of the United Nations agenda for women, cooperating with women’s organizations in Europe and worldwide through the International Council of Women and the Commonwealth Women’s Network.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The objectives of the council are to improve the quality of life for all; to promote equality of opportunity for women; to remove discrimination against women; to exchange information and ideas, formulate policies, educate and promote the effective participation of women in decision-making.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The council participated in the fifty-third and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2009 and 2011, reporting back to affiliated organizations in Malta and adopting policy resolutions urging action related to the agenda of the Commission for presentation to the Government of Malta. Reports on sessions of the Commission and developments are published in the newsletter of the council for members and affiliated organizations. The council has supported the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, including aspects of the Millennium Development Goals, and matters arising under the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by means of (a) policy resolutions ratified at annual general meetings of the council, (b) seminars organized nationally by the council and (c) through submissions and reports to Government in response to events or to government consultation papers.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

None specified other than the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women mentioned above.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

No cooperation was specified.

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

No activities were specified.

Additional information

The council has cooperated fully and attended meetings with other women's organizations within Europe, including the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Centre of the International Council of Women and the European Women's Lobby, as well as meetings of the International Council of Women, the Commonwealth Heads of Government and the Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers.

5. National Council on Family Relations

Special, 2005

Introduction

The National Council on Family Relations is the world's premier professional organization for the multidisciplinary understanding of families. Founded in 1938, the organization has 3,500 members who are family researchers, educators and practitioners in many countries. The council publishes three scholarly journals, the *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Family Relations: Interdisciplinary Journal of Applied Family Studies* and the *Journal of Family Theory & Review*. The council holds an annual conference with 1,000 members in attendance. It also confers a professional credential in the field of family life education: the certified family life educator.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The mission of the council is to provide an educational forum for family researchers, educators and practitioners to share in the development and dissemination of knowledge about families and family relationships, establish professional standards and work to promote family well-being.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The council supports the work of the United Nations in two ways: (a) through the participation of its representatives and (b) by the way in which it publicizes the work of the United Nations.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The council presented a paper entitled "Good practices in family policy development, implementation and evaluation" to the Expert Group meeting on the theme of "Good practices in family policymaking: family policy development, monitoring and implementation: lessons learnt" organized by the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 15-17 May 2012 in New York. The meeting was convened as part of the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014. The primary objective of the meeting was to provide Member States and other stakeholders with expert opinions and recommendations regarding good practices in family policies development, implementation and assessment.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

No cooperation was specified.

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

The council held its annual conference in November 2012 in Phoenix, Arizona, United States, on the theme of “Families and health”. Hundreds of presentations were made and poster sessions held at the conference, many of them aligned with the Millennium Development Goals.

6. National Union of Jurists of Cuba

Special, 1997

Introduction

The National Union of Jurists of Cuba is a non-governmental, non-profit, self-financed organization of law practitioners, with a scientific, professional and academic profile, established on 8 June 1977 pursuant to article 7 of the constitution of Cuba. The organization has over 16,000 voluntary members nationwide who abide by its code of ethics and its rules and regulations.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The main purpose of the organization is to contribute to the scientific, technical and professional development of its members.

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 participated in consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and members of Cuban civil society, with a view to preparing national reports on the fulfilment of the international legal obligations and international treaties on human rights that Cuba has signed. It has also made written contributions and taken part in the work of the Treaty bodies. It has welcomed officials from the United Nations and its agencies who have visited Cuba during the reporting period and with whom it has developed seminars, meetings, round-table discussions, diploma courses and modules for discussion of documents pertaining to those entities. For instance, the organization has participated in and organized meetings with the regional office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), including several seminars and a diploma course on refugees.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization attended the fifty-fourth and fifty-sixth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women held at United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2010 and 2012 respectively.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In cooperation with the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the organization developed a

project for the computerization of virtual law libraries implemented in its main office and in provincial delegations throughout Cuba. Important actions were started in 2011, together with several United Nations agencies, in the field of gender and law, mostly based on training members of the Cuban law community and on the dissemination of topics for public education in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Population Fund.

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

The organization contributed to the fulfilment of Millennium Development Goal 3 through training of law practitioners and public education efforts.

7. Native Women's Association of Canada

Special, 2005

Introduction

The Native Women's Association of Canada works to advance the well-being of aboriginal women and girls, as well as their families and communities through activism, policy analysis and advocacy. The association was incorporated in 1974 and is the recognized national aboriginal organization whose purpose is to represent and speak on behalf of aboriginal women in Canada. It is led by an elected national president. There are 25 staff members, an Executive Director and five directors who head up departments dealing with education, employment, environment, health, human rights and international affairs and prevention of violence, including cases of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The association is founded on the collective goal of enhancing, promoting and fostering the social, economic, cultural and political well-being and equality of First Nations and Métis women within aboriginal and Canadian societies. As a national organization representing aboriginal women since 1974, the mandate of the association is to achieve equality for all aboriginal women in Canada. It is actively involved with partner organizations across the globe, including the United Nations, in achieving this goal and ending discrimination against indigenous women.

Significant changes in the organization

The association has undergone significant financial cuts (100 per cent) to its health department and no government funding has been available since 2010 for advocacy or work on the database that records high rates of missing and murdered aboriginal women and girls.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The association is actively involved with partner organizations across the globe in internationally promoting its collective goals, in the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. It welcomes the

opportunity to share, support and learn from aboriginal populations worldwide. The association produces fact sheets, position papers, press releases, statements, joint statements with our partners and shadow reports.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The association currently participates in sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues; the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the Commission on the Status of Women; the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council and preparatory meetings for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples to be held in 2014.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The association has worked collaboratively with members of the United Nations bodies towards ending discrimination against the native people of the northern hemisphere and affording them the same basic human rights as those enjoyed by the rest of the population of the region. The association has ratified numerous documents on indigenous rights, and tries to use the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the template for all resolutions and frameworks for action as are enshrined in its outcomes and policies.

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

The association works within its provincial and territorial member associations and with its human rights partner organizations to develop public education materials for workshops, for the website and for distribution within all of its umbrella organizations that support the Millennium Development Goals.

8. Netherlands Association of Women's Interests, Women's Work and Equal Citizenship

Special, 2001

Introduction

The Netherlands Association for Women's Interests, Women's Work and Equal Citizenship was founded in 1894 as an association for women's suffrage. It is affiliated with the International Alliance of Women, which it co-founded in 1904.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Today the association advocates for the equal power and influence of men and women in decision-making in all fields of society, for shaping their own future and the future of society and the realization of women's human rights. It writes and supports petitions on women's rights nationally and internationally. Its members participate in public debates, cooperate with other women's organizations and hold meetings to raise awareness of prejudices, customs and practices that perpetuate the unequal distribution of power, rights, opportunities and responsibilities of men and women.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The association has engaged in organizing meetings, lobbying, public debate, spreading and reactivating knowledge and use of the human rights treaties, especially the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Through its website, it disseminates news related to the work of the United Nations.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The association took part in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, at which it organized side events. These included events relating to mental health in 2009, to Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security in 2010 and on physical barriers to education for girls in 2011.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In 2009, the association participated in the preparation of a shadow report and a meeting on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In 2012, it took part in the discussions on alternative models for a fifth World Conference on Women in Qatar in 2015.

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

No activities were specified.

9. New Humanity**General, 1987****Introduction**

New Humanity is an international NGO active in over 100 countries around the world. It represents the activities of the Focolare Movement at the United Nations. Its principal fields of action are in human and social development: the environment, health, education, sports, communication and cultural and interreligious dialogue; and in human rights: the right to development, human rights and international solidarity, the right to education and the promotion of the culture of peace and support for youth.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to contribute to the unity of the human family, fully respecting the individual identities of all of its members and promoting universal fraternity, as proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

To contribute to the development agenda of the Economic and Social Council, the organization promotes concrete initiatives in various sectors of society, including education, family, sports, communications, politics, human rights, intercultural and interreligious dialogue and social and economic development projects through its associated organizations. It supports young people's education and initiatives.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the following meetings:

- (a) Second session of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council, 26-30 January 2009 in Geneva;
- (b) A meeting of the High-Level Task Force on the Right to Development, 1-9 April 2009 in Geneva, at which it delivered a written statement;
- (c) Twelfth session of the Human Rights Council, 14 September-2 October 2009 in Geneva, at which it delivered a written statement and made an oral intervention during the interactive dialogue on the report of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity;
- (d) Fourth session of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council, 25-29 January 2010 in Geneva, at which it made an oral intervention;
- (e) Eleventh session of the Working Group on the Right to Development, 26-30 April 2010 in Geneva, at which it delivered a written statement;
- (f) Fifteenth session of the Human Rights Council Session, 13 September-1 October 2010 in Geneva, at which it organized a side event and delivered a written statement;
- (g) Open consultation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, at which it delivered a written statement on 14 December 2010;
- (h) Seventeenth session of the Human Rights Council, at which it organized a side event on 3 June 2011 in Geneva;
- (i) Eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council, at which it organized a side event on international solidarity, development and the Millennium Development Goals on 14 September 2011 in Geneva;
- (j) Fiftieth session of the Commission for Social Development, 1-10 February 2012 in New York, at which it organized a side event and delivered a written statement;
- (k) Twentieth session of the Human Rights Council, at which it organized a side event on 17 June 2012 in Geneva;
- (l) United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 20-22 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at which it took part in a round table on environmental problems;
- (m) Twenty-first session of the Human Rights Council, at which it organized a side event on 15 September 2012 in Geneva.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In November 2011 at the thirty-sixth session of the General Conference of UNESCO, the organization was recognized as an official NGO partner. It collaborates with UNESCO to promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue, education for peace and international solidarity and economic and social development, especially in Africa.

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

The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals as follows:

- (a) Goal 1: 25 long-term and 180 microprojects of development have been carried out for the eradication of poverty, the development of economic activities and health care in 40 countries of Africa, Asia and Central and South America;
- (b) Goal 2: 180 microprojects to support families for the primary education of 19,500 children have been carried out in 83 countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe;
- (c) Goal 8: a project to install a network of satellite communications in Cameroon and Côte d'Ivoire, realized in collaboration with the European Space Agency.

10. Nigerian Institute of Homeopathy

Special, 2005

Introduction

The Nigerian Institute of Homeopathy was established in 1980 in Enugu, Nigeria, as a national professional, educational, scientific and research non-profit NGO. The organization, incorporated on 9 December 1994, was instrumental in lobbying the Government of Nigeria to enact a law recognizing homeopathy and alternative medicine

Aims and purposes of the organization

Its aims are the following: (a) teaching and spreading the art of homeopathy and other forms of alternative medicine; (b) serving as a professional association of homeopaths, for the purpose of networking and maintaining high ethical and professional standards; (c) conducting public benefit research into homeopathy and alternative medicine; and (d) supporting the work of the United Nations through active collaboration with the relevant United Nations agencies and by attending relevant meetings and conferences

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization commemorated and sponsored the following United Nations days of observance through seminars, workshops and the mass media: World Water Day on 22 March; World Health Day on 7 April; World Environment Day on 5 June; Day of the African Child on 16 June; International Literacy Day on 8 September; World Food Day on 16 October; United Nations Day on 24 October; World AIDS Day on 1 December.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization assisted with the oral rehydration and first aid centre for market users established by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International First Aid Society at Enugu main market, by sending medicines and volunteers to provide services. It is estimated that 150,000 people use the market daily. It collaborated with the Ministry of Health, UNICEF and the World Health Organization (WHO) to give free immunization to Nigerian children from 2009 to 2012. An estimated 2.5 million children benefited.

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

The Nigerian Institute of Homoeopathy contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in the following areas:

(a) Goal 1. The organization collaborated with the International First Aid Society and the Calvary Foundation International to feed 15,000 children from poor families every Tuesday with food of high nutritional value during the reporting period. The venue was the Calvary Foundation International nursery and primary school premises.

(b) Goal 2. Between 2009 and 2012, the organization endowed five annual prizes at the Calvary Foundation International nursery and primary schools for the most punctual pupil, for the overall best pupil, for the best pupil in writing the English language, for the best pupil in public speaking and the best pupil in mathematics. The prizes, which include money and books, are aimed at incentivizing pupils to attend school regularly and to show interest in their studies. The organization collaborated with the International First Aid Society to organize training for nursery and primary school teachers in early child care and basic education between 2009 and 2012, from which 1,600 teachers benefited.

(c) Goal 5. The Nigerian Institute of Homeopathy provided general medical care and professional advice to women and young mothers at its teaching hospital in Ogbete, Enugu, from which 56,800 women benefited. It provided immunization to 5,000 pregnant mothers and babies at the Calvary Foundation Hospital. It also donated medicines, clothing, bedsheets and blankets to assist children, babies and mothers displaced during the flood disaster in Otuocha, Anambra State, in 2012.

11. Nonviolence International

Special, 2005

Introduction

Nonviolence International was founded in 1989 with the intention of providing assistance to individuals, organizations and Governments seeking non-violent means to bring about social and political change.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Nonviolence International works to strengthen the capacity of people to use the power of non-violence as a means to bring about changes that reflect the truth, justice and the desire for human development on the personal, social, economic and political levels. The organization believes that every culture and religious tradition in the world contains the seeds of truth and non-violence and it encourages activists of different traditions to see non-violent solutions that respect their cultural identities. It provides general educational materials on non-violence from all traditions and strategy sessions and training for activists and organizers coordinated by teams of international experts. It also sponsors local, national and international conferences and seminars, as well as offering training programmes on methods of non-violence. The organization provides a core group of international non-violent action specialists for groups or Governments seeking alternative possibilities for peace. It cooperates with other organizations concerned with non-violence, peace and conflict resolution internationally in order to work together towards a common goal. The organization prints and disseminates articles, newsletters and position papers on non-violence and provides public education through speakers and the media.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The primary contribution to the work of the United Nations by the organization has been in the field of disarmament through participation in the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the preparatory meetings on the Arms Trade Treaty.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the following meetings:

- Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on Small Arms and Light Weapons, 14-18 June 2010, New York
- Meetings of the open-ended working group towards an Arms Trade Treaty and the first and fourth sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty in New York, 12-23 July 2010 and 13-17 February 2012 respectively

- United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, 2-27 July 2012, New York
- Final United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, 18-28 March 2013, New York.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization cooperated with the United Nations Mine Action Service and has cooperated in the field with several United Nations entities, including the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

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

No activities were specified.

12. Nour Foundation

Special, 2009

Introduction

Founded in 1985, the Nour Foundation is a public charitable NGO. It seeks to study and explore core principles and values that universally promote a greater spirit of mutual understanding, tolerance and unity among human beings.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The foundation explores meaning and commonality in human experience through a multidisciplinary and integrative approach that seeks to raise greater awareness and understanding of the universal dimension of human beings and promote equality, solidarity, tolerance and shared responsibility.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The foundation presented various public events featuring public experts between 2009 and 2012 in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

No cooperation was specified.

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

No activities were specified.

13. Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development

Special, 2005

Introduction

The Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development is focused on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals related to health.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The foundation operates in three areas: (a) developing and supporting pioneering health-care projects focusing on people in low-income settings by contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals related to health through improving access to health care, strengthening human resources and empowering vulnerable groups; (b) serving as a think tank and thought leader on international health and corporate responsibility; (c) fostering dialogue between the private sector, Government and civil society regarding global development and corporate responsibility.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The foundation has supported Novartis in operationalizing the principles of the Global Compact. In order to share and discuss new approaches to tackling global health challenges, the foundation organizes two dialogues in Geneva each year.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The foundation presented on corporate responsibility at the high-level segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, 8 July 2009, Geneva.

The foundation presented on corporate responsibility at the second High-level Symposium to prepare for the second Development Cooperation Forum, 3 and 4 June 2010, Helsinki.

The foundation organized a side event at the Global Compact Leaders Summit, 25 June 2010, New York.

The foundation presented on corporate responsibility at the special policy dialogue for the 2012 Development Cooperation Forum, 27 February, New York.

The foundation presented on corporate responsibility at the Rio+20 Corporate Sustainability Forum, 18 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The foundation took part in the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum, 5 and 6 July, 2012, New York.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The foundation is a member of the Global Compact Human Rights Working Group and of the Global Compact LEAD Initiative and in 2012 was appointed as the Special Adviser on the post-2015 development and business ethics of the Global Compact. It is also a member of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, a joint initiative of the International Telecommunication Union and UNESCO. It has worked with WHO to administer the Novartis drug donations for leprosy and tuberculosis and has a memorandum of understanding with WHO to develop child and maternal health e-learning tools.

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

The initiatives of the foundation are focused on achieving the Millennium Development Goals related to health. It supports projects improving access to health care in Mali and the United Republic of Tanzania. Access interventions on both the supply and demand side were designed and successfully piloted. They are currently being scaled up in the United Republic of Tanzania, where the patient-centred treatment of tuberculosis (TB) developed by the foundation and the national TB and leprosy programme facilitates treatment of tuberculosis as patients can opt for home-based treatment supervised by a family member while still observing a directly observed treatment short course. To facilitate adaptation and training of the WHO integrated management of childhood illness strategy, NFSD supported WHO in developing a computerized adaptation and training tool for the strategy. A similar tool for maternal and newborn health is being developed and field tested. The foundation, the Ministry of Health of the United Republic of Tanzania, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, together support the Tanzanian training centre for international health in Ifakara that aims to strengthen human resources in the health-care sector. In Ghana, the foundation and its partners are piloting a telemedicine project to improve access to health-care services using information and communication technologies. Through the comprehensive leprosy care programme in India, it is helping to improve the quality of life for former leprosy patients through reconstructive surgery and economic rehabilitation. Globally, the foundation is exploring innovative leprosy initiatives. It co-founded the Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative for children affected by poverty, conflict, HIV and AIDS. This initiative trains course leaders, develops manuals and lobbies Governments to mainstream psychosocial support. The foundation partners with the Earth Institute in the Millennium Villages Project, financing one Millennium village and donating the artemisinin-based combination therapy for the treatment of malaria to all Millennium villages.

14. Open City International Foundation**Special, 2009****Introduction**

Open City is a worldwide open network of professionals and organizations willing to apply their knowledge to support poverty alleviation, multicultural integration and ecosystem conservation.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims of the organization are the development of approaches, programmes and projects that generate jobs for low-income communities, taking into consideration the whole cycle from production to market and prioritizing cooperative entrepreneurship; fostering a culture of multicultural integration and environmental sustainability; and providing tools for teachers and parents for an education in civic values and concepts, such as respect, responsibility, trustworthiness, fairness, ethics, multiculturalism and sustainability.

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 contribute mainly to the aims of the Economic and Social Council and United Nations agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNESCO, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, and UNICEF, through projects resulting in the generation of income for poor communities based on an economically sustainable approach. The organization also advocates for companies to adopt the ministerial declarations of the Economic and Social Council and take action to enhance the local economy and improve the quality of local life.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June 2012.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization cooperated with the FAO Food for Cities network.

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

The organization contributed to Millennium Development Goals 1, 3 and 7 through the following projects:

- (a) Constitution of cooperatives of local communities (men and women) to manage artificial floating sustainable islands in Amazonia, Brazil, with six to eight tanks breeding the local tambaqui fish;
- (b) Design of an industrial facility to process fish and be a source of local income in Amazonia, Brazil;
- (c) A project for the empowerment and market access of handicraft communities in the states of Alagoas, Sergipe and Paraiba, Brazil. This included product selection and market-oriented improvements and training design for handicrafts;
- (d) A thematic tourism development project for Muxima, Angola, also involving cooperative fish raising, family agriculture and religious handicrafts with local rural products among others;

(e) Tourism proposal with the participation of local adolescents for municipality of Covilhã, Portugal;

(f) A rehabilitation centre for Maputo envisaging training for work.

Additional information

The organization is developing a new website which will show project results, allow other NGOs to access and use its approaches and allow schools to access educational materials.

15. Open Society Institute

Special, 1997

Introduction

The Open Society Foundations (the Open Society Institute until 2011) is a family of more than 20 foundations established by philanthropist George Soros. They work with local communities in more than 100 countries to support justice, freedom of expression and access to public health and education.

Aims and purposes of the organization

To achieve its mission, the organization seeks to shape public policies that assure greater fairness in political, legal and economic systems and safeguard fundamental rights. At the local level, it implements a range of initiatives to advance justice, education, public health and an independent media. It places a high priority on protecting and improving the lives of marginalized people and communities.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In accordance with the remit of the United Nations, the Open Society Justice Initiative extends and reinforces legal protections against ethnic/racial discrimination in Europe. Between 2009 and 2012, it supported seven individuals in bringing cases before the Human Rights Committee as victims of torture. In 2011, the Open Society Foundations Public Health Programme launched the “Stop torture in health care” campaign. The aim was to mobilize health providers and human rights activists to stop severe abuses such as forced sterilization and denial of pain relief, perpetrated by medical or law enforcement personnel.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization participated in the sessions of a number of committees and of the General Assembly sessions during the reporting period and hosted a range of side events. Events that demonstrate the participation of the organization include:

(a) The Global Drug Policy Programme of the organization participated in the fifty-third session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs, 8-12 March 2010 in Vienna.

(b) The Justice Initiative of the organization presented a written paper, entitled, “From judgment to justice: implementing the views of the United Nations Human Rights Committee” to the Human Rights Committee, 30 March 2011 in New York.

(c) The organization co-hosted a briefing on the importance of United States engagement in the work of the Human Rights Council, with a focus on issues in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Myanmar on 14 April 2011 in Geneva.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization has a solid relationship with United Nations bodies and provides research and analysis on legal and political events occurring in Asia and Africa, as highlighted below:

(a) In collaboration with the Office of Legal Affairs, the organization monitors and publishes periodic reports on the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (2011-2012).

(b) The organization has provided information on ethnic profiling and discrimination in access to citizenship to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for their periodic reviews (2009-2012).

(c) The organization co-hosted and moderated a discussion with the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment on recommendations to decriminalize drug use and possession and adopt harm reduction services, 26 October, 2010, Geneva.

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

The organization supports stigmatized and socially excluded groups with specific regard to HIV/AIDS treatment and reduction. In December 2011, it hosted a conference in Bangkok with activists from low-resource countries to strategize on access to HIV/AIDS medicines. In addition, it has published reports focusing on HIV and reduction services. The organization has continued to push for a universal standard of primary, inclusive education by refuting practices of segregation and overt exclusion at the level of education policy for children with disabilities and substantially different educational opportunities based on language of instruction, religion, or minority status. In collaboration with UNICEF, it published an overview on Roma early childhood inclusion, advocating for the end of segregation of Roma children from their peers in the Czech Republic. Its international women’s programme has contributed to gender equality and participation in politics and leadership roles in Africa by providing grants and support for various charities that focus on the participation of women in governance and decision-making processes at local and national levels, with special attention given to women in Liberia, Sierra Leone and South Sudan.