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Note by the Secretary-General

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Fondation connaissance et liberté

Special, 2008

Introduction

The Fondation connaissance et liberté, created in 1995 and recognized as a charity since 2000, is a Haitian national foundation mainly financed by the Open Society Foundations, a network of foundations and initiatives established worldwide by the Hungarian-American financier George Soros to promote democratic values. The Fondation also receives funding from the European Union and the French development agency. It has chosen to support those societal sectors that embody change: children and young people, civil society associations and historically marginalized sectors such as peasants and women.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The mission of the Foundation is to contribute to the emergence of a fair and democratic society working in solidarity for the common good and the public interest. Its objectives are to build capacity and individual and collective responsibility; to develop critical thinking; and to empower the marginalized communities and sectors of Haitian society: peasants, women, children and youth. It is working to strengthen civil society while bringing citizens closer to the State.

Significant changes in the organization

The Executive Director has been appointed Prime Minister of Haiti. Before her departure, the Fondation undertook a project to create a public urban park in cooperation with the Haitian Government. After the earthquake of January 2010, that called for extensive urban development work in an unsafe area and presented a great challenge for democratization and civic education in a country suffering from extreme environmental and institutional fragility.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

No information provided.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No information provided.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Fondation works with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on projects in the neighbourhood where the public park is being created. After the earthquake, “exploratory walks” were organized by UN-Women in the unsafe areas to identify projects and establish the role of women in these areas. A solar electrification project was born of these exploratory walks, with the goal of reducing the incidence of night-time violence in the neighbourhood. The Fondation has also worked on educational programmes with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF).

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

All Fondation programmes are aimed at achieving certain Millennium Development Goals: to reduce poverty, to improve health and to promote education, especially for girls.

Additional information

The Fondation apologizes for the delay in submitting this report. Measures have been taken to prevent any recurrence.
