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Note by the Secretary-General*

Addendum

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1. Groupement d'appui aux initiatives économiques des femmes

Special: 1999

Introduction

The Groupement d'Appui aux Initiatives Economiques des Femmes (GAIE/FEMMES) was created in 1992. It is dedicated to promoting women, gender equality, and the protection of the physical and moral integrity of women and children in Mali.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The goals of the organization are to promote women's and children's socioeconomic development through research and participation in the study of women's activities and of their sociocultural environment; building good will for supporting, valuing and carrying out collective or individual initiatives to promote women; and combating all forms of injustice toward women and children.

Significant changes in the organization

No changes to report.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the 2011-2014 period, the organization implemented and ensured follow-up for the following projects in Mali:

- Building a six-grade school in Kawerla. This project has had a very positive impact, with more than 80 per cent of girls attending the school;
- Training the women of Dougouwolonfila in poultry science;
- Training in livestock fattening techniques for women in the Banamba circle and in Kawerla, enabling increased revenue, improved food supply for the population, and reduced incidence of ovine diseases;
- Education of girls in need in Gariboubougoufié; and
- Evaluation of use of the Sabalibougou health centre.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No information provided.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

GAIE/FEMMES has cooperated in particular with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), and numerous non-governmental organizations in the fields of combating desertification and preparing the post-2015 development agenda.

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

GAIE/FEMMES has taken part in numerous training seminars in the following areas:

- Adaptation of poultry production systems in the context of climate change;
- Knowledge of cooperative mechanisms at the sub-regional, regional and international levels;
- Participation of women in civil society and in the 2013-2014 elections; and
- Awareness-building and follow-up on child victims of trafficking.

2. International Forum for Child Welfare

Special, 1995

Introduction

Created in 1989, the International Forum for Child Welfare (IFCW) is an international NGO dedicated to the promotion of the rights and well-being of children globally.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The IFCW's goal is to assist member organizations in delivering services to children, young people and their families in their own particular area of work through capacity building. It functions largely as a virtual organization, capitalizing on modern methods of communication to reach child welfare organizations worldwide.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) informs the work of the organization. The organization convenes the IFCW WorldForum regularly, during which established and emerging national non-governmental child welfare organizations mutually share current successes and challenges and receive technical assistance from each other to strengthen and enable each NGO to better implement the UNCRC in its own country, culture and society.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The IFCW provides testimonies on issues of international child welfare. On 17 October 2013, the IFCW and the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, Inc. (CHCF) cosponsored a panel discussion and forum on the neglected rights and welfare of migrant children and youth. Expert panellists discussed causes of child

migration; the conditions that contribute to human trafficking of children; the emotional and psychological consequences for these children; and the responsibilities of governments, international organizations, community-based organizations and NGO's for creating solutions to these crises.

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

The IFCW works with member organizations to enhance their capacity to meet the MDGs.

3. Kadın Adaylari Destekleme ve Eğitim Derneği

Special, 2011

Introduction

Association for Support of Women Candidates (KA.DER) is a Turkish organization that defends equal representation of women and men in all fields of life, as a precondition of democracy.

Aims and purposes of the organization

KA.DER aims to raise awareness on equality between women and men to counter male domination in social and political life; eliminate economic, social, cultural and legal obstacles faced by women politicians; empower women in general, to encourage them to become visible in their fields of work; strengthen cooperation and collaboration among women in political parties; and carry out lobbying, advocacy, campaigning, organizing, solidarity and training activities.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

From 2013 to 2014, the European Union funded KA.DER to carry out the Project "Empowerment of Women Activists and Women Citizens as Voters and Active Citizens", which aimed to improve the capacity of women who are active in local civil society organizations.

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

KA.DER conducted the following initiatives:

- Empowerment of over 500 women and preparation for their candidature through KA.DER’s political schools;
- Direct lobby, advocacy, and training in order to transform the male dominated political parties to women friendly parties;
- Election campaigns, both during general and local elections, in order to pressurise political parties to include women candidates, and enhance public awareness towards gender equality; and
- Submission of proposals and amendments on the constitution, election laws, and other acts through committees, platforms and direct meetings with politicians.

4. Karamah: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights

Special, 2011

Introduction

KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights (KARAMAH) envisions a world in which all human beings, regardless of gender or other differences, enjoy their God-given right of dignity.

Aims and purposes of the organization

KARAMAH is committed to promote human rights globally, especially gender equity, religious freedom and civil rights in the United States of America. It pursues its mission through education, legal outreach and advocacy.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, KARAMAH:

- Hosted a panel discussion at the United Nations Church Centre in New York, on 1 March 2011, to coincide with the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). This event explored how Islamic economic models have empowered Muslim women to lead efforts for development and the elimination of poverty and hunger;
- Raised awareness about women’s rights and Islam among the diplomatic and civil society communities at the United Nations;
- Provided a platform on women’s rights and Islam about women’s access to education to facilitate financial empowerment, and the Prophet Muhammad’s positive position on women’s intellectual and professional pursuits; and
- Presented a workshop during the 58th Session of CSW on 10 March 2014 that presented a case study on the Belgian situation about the “headscarf ban” in Flemish public.

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

KARAMAH supports MDG 3, as it has worked to develop intensive and innovative educational programmes that provide Muslim women with the tools and skills they need to become dynamic leaders in their communities. These training programmes range from short one to three-day workshops, to a three-week Law and Leadership Summer Program (LLSP). LLSP allows participants to better understand and advocate for gender-equitable rights within the context of their religion and respective communities. It increases their confidence and ability to lead themselves and their peers and allows them to understand how to approach situations that may cause tension or conflict.

5. Kurdistan Reconstruction and Development Society**Special, 2007****Introduction**

The Kurdistan Reconstruction and Development Society (KURDS) is an independent humanitarian organization based in Dohuk Governorate, in Kurdistan Region, Republic of Iraq. It focuses its reconstruction and development efforts in all three governorates of the region administered by the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG).

Aims and purposes of the organization

KURDS's overarching aim is to address the reconstruction and development needs of the Kurdistan Region following natural or man-made disaster or conflict.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

KURDS has contributed to the work of the United Nations through vocational training courses; projects related to response to the urgent needs of refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs); construction of camp infrastructure and rehabilitation of non-camp infrastructure; and prioritisation of the employment of IDPs and refugees population (mostly as unskilled labours) and local Kurdish population by providing large number of short and long term employment opportunities.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization attended the United Nations Cluster Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP), 2013, Amman, Jordan, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Annual Consultation Meeting, in relation to the planning of the 2015 IDPs and Refugees program in Iraq, 17-19 June 2014, Geneva, Switzerland. It also participated in the United Nations Cluster Strategic Planning Conference for the response to IDPs and Refugees in the Kurdistan Region, 2014.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

During the reporting period, KURDS has implemented the following projects in Dohuk, Erbil and Sulaimaniyah Governorates, Republic of Iraq:

- Infrastructure construction and maintenance of 8 refugee camps (2012-2014), with UNHCR;
- Implementation of the United Nations International Children’s Fund (UNICEF) water projects, and a hygiene education programme in refugee and IDP camps in local communities (2013-2014); and
- Implementation of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funded income generation project for habitants of Baharke and Domiz IDP camps (2014).

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

KURDS supported the following MDGs:

- MDG 1: KURDS has employed 8,000 people (2011-2014);
- MDG 2, through the construction of one school in the Arbad refugee camps and the rehabilitation of 33 schools in Dohuk, Erbil Governorates;
- MDG 3, by reaching 2,451 indirect beneficiaries (e.g. other family members) through its awareness programmes; and
- MDG 7, through the provision of safe potable water to 61,331 families.

6. Lassalle-Institut

Special, 2003

Introduction

Founded in 1995, Lassalle Institut (LI) is an important institution in the field of Zen, Ethics, and leadership. It is aimed toward decision makers in business, politics, and other sectors of society with an emphasis on an ethics rooted in holistic awareness.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Through seminars, lectures, coaching, research and courses, the Lassalle Institute promotes ethical values supported culture and social development.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Workshops and expert meeting on cross border cooperation were organized as part of the Jerusalem Project from 2011 to 2013. As a result, the Networking for Urban Development for Palestine in East Jerusalem, State of Palestine, was supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). LI held its 2nd Annual International Conference: “Jerusalem — Open City for Learning World Peace”, attended by politicians and representatives from Israel and Europe, LI. Interfaith, intercultural workshops were held yearly in Jerusalem, State of Palestine, for residents of Jerusalem and environment, 12-14 November 2012.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization attended the following meetings:

- The 33rd Session of the General Assembly Committee on Information, New York, 28 April-3 May 2011;
- Various meetings and workshops in relation to course “GEIST and Leadership” of the Lassalle-Institute, 27 May-1 June 2012, United Nations, New York; and
- Various meetings and networking with United Nations agencies and national representatives in relation to course “Zen and Profession” of the Lassalle-Institute, 14-19 April 2013 and 4 April 2014, United Nations, New York.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

During the reported period, LI cooperated with the United Nations through the project “Cross-Border Cooperation: an Israeli-Palestinian Project”, which aims to advance a culture of peace in Jerusalem. Activities included an experts’ workshop at the Europe Institute University of Basel, Switzerland, in March 2011, 2012 and 2013. In November 2012, LI held the Israeli-Palestinian-European Conference in Jerusalem.

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

With its project “The Future Leaders Forum”, LI sensitized and empowered young potential leaders from several different countries for the solution of global issues, while stressing the importance of global governance and the United Nations, Bad Schönbrunn, Switzerland, 2011-2012. LI supported global principles and the United Nations Charter through several meetings during the reporting period with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change representatives of East Jerusalem, State of Palestine, UNDP Members, and the Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs in Jerusalem, State of Palestine, and Doha, Qatar.

7. Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund

Special, 2011

Introduction

The Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund (LCCREF) seeks to build public understanding in the United States of America so that the country can meet its highest ideals. The organization promotes public awareness of contemporary civil and human rights and encourages appreciation for the diversity of its people.

Aims and purposes of the organization

LCCREF serves as an information clearinghouse on civil rights issues in the United States. It monitors the federal government's enforcement of civil rights laws, Supreme Court decisions, and legislative initiatives, monitors United States compliance with its international human rights treaty obligations, and develops materials for the media and the public. The organization sponsors conferences and symposia and organizes civil rights education campaigns.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

LCCREF has publicly supported the engagement by the United States with the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC). The organization has also worked to make the American public more aware of the benefits and importance of ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives attended the following meetings:

- The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the United States, HRC, November 2010, Geneva, Switzerland;
- The review of the 4th periodic report of the United States by the Human Rights Committee on its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), March 2014, Geneva, Switzerland;
- The 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), March 2014, New York;
- Side events organized by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women on a new initiative in the United States known as “Cities for CEDAW”, March 2014, New York; and
- The review of the United States during the 85th session of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) August 2014, Geneva, Switzerland.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization has developed substantive reports on the implementation by the United States of its human rights obligations, including pursuant to ratified treaties, and have distributed them widely to Member States.

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

No activities were specified.

8. Mission International Rescue Foundation**Special, 2007****Introduction**

Mission International Rescue (MIR) was created to assist underserved children and families in the Dominican Republic, with a main focus on education.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The purpose of the organization is to provide educational services to needy children and adults in the South Eastern region of the Dominican Republic. MIR carries out this aim by offering vocational trainings in culinary arts, bookkeeping, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering and refrigeration. These programmes allow them to find employment shortly after high school graduation.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization works toward the realisation of the MDGs by providing children with the education they need to succeed.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization has been in contact with the United Nations Foundation to potentially organize a summit in the Dominican Republic.

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

MIR believes that its programmes and trainings are helping to eradicate poverty by increasing the amount of children accepted in its schools each year. The organization continues to host fundraisers. The contributions received are used to build more classrooms and hire more teachers.

9. Muslim World League

General, 1979

Introduction

The Muslim World League (MWL) was established in Saudi Arabia in 1964 in order to engage in interfaith dialogue, counter religious extremism, promote human rights, eradicate illiteracy, and help the needy around the world.

Aims and purposes of the organization

To achieve its objectives, the MWL organizes international conferences and seminars, including: Interfaith conference, 2011, Taiwan, Province of China; Human rights Conference, 2013, Makkah, Saudi Arabia; Seminar on Education, 2013, Sydney, Australia. It also hosts specialised organizations working on crucial projects, including The International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO), which has provided help in more than 55 countries including the major distressed regions of the world like the Syrian Arab Republic, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Sudan, Republic of Iraq, Albania, and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, among others.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

MWL contributed by itself and through its subsidiaries to the following activities:

- Physicians Across Continents (PAC) organized special educational programmes in August 2015 for 42,000 Syrian orphans, and provided medical care to more than 750000 patients free of cost in more than 20 countries;
- MWL helped drill more than 2,974 wells around the world in 2012, distributed 931.5 tons of rice and 810 tons of wheat helping more than 40,500 families in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and
- MWL successfully carried out 24 relief projects in 11 countries and helped 304,417 people.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives attended:

- The 70th session of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), 4-8 August 2014, Bangkok, Thailand; and
- The 5th Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, 30 July-1 August 2014, New York.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

No cooperation was specified.

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

The MWL contributed to MDGs 1, 2, 3 and 8 by:

- Taking care of more than 89,000 orphans;
- Operating and supporting through its affiliated organizations 54 educational institutions and programs that benefit 56,125 students in 34 countries;
- Launching a project entitled “Female Entrepreneurs” to empower women in the society; and
- Carrying out 9 human development projects in 8 countries that have benefited to 456,000 people.

10. National Association of Community Legal Centres

Special, 2003

Introduction

National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) gathers community legal centres (CLCs) in Australia. Its members are the state and territory associations of CLCs that represent over 200 centres across Australia. CLCs provide legal advice and services to vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community, as well as undertaking matters in the public interest.

Aims and purposes of the organization

NACLC’s aim is to achieve rights, fairness and equality for Australian communities.

Significant changes in the organization

NACLC transitioned from an Incorporated Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee, with a Board and Advisory Council. It retains its registration as a charity.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

NACLC contributes both directly and through the work of CLCs across Australia through:

- Research, submissions and contribution to policy development, in order to protect and promote the human rights of disadvantaged people, and ensure Australia’s compliance with international human rights obligations;
- Direct casework seeking to protect and uphold the legal rights of disadvantaged people;
- Coordination of civil society engagement, preliminary consultations and workshops during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Australia; and
- Provision of feedback to the Australian Government on reports including Australia’s combined 18th-20th reports under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives attended the following meetings:

- The 56th, 57th, and 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 2012-2014, New York;
- The 4th, 5th and 6th Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing, 2013-2015, New York; and
- United Nations Department for Social and Economic Affairs (DESA)/United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific (ESCAP) workshop on the Social Integration and the Rights of Older Persons in the Asia-Pacific region, 30 September-2 October 2014, Bangkok, Thailand.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

NACLC engaged with the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women study tour, by providing information on legal responses to violence against women, April 2012. It coordinated a submission to the Human Rights Committee Prior to Reporting for the Sixth Periodic Report of Australia, August 2012. It engaged with the Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) public consultation on the rights of older persons, 2013. It provided information to the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women about changes to victims' compensation laws and engaged on freedom of expression, and Situation of Human Rights Defenders on proposed anti-protest laws in Tasmania, Australia.

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

The organization supported the following goals:

- MDG 1, through submissions, advocacy and direct casework by CLCs addressing discrimination against women and people with disability;
- MDG 3, by supporting work of Women's Legal Services across Australia and engagement through CSW; and
- MDG 7, by supporting the work of Environmental Defenders Offices.

11. Network Movement for Justice and Development

Special, 2007

Introduction

The Network Movement for Justice and Development (NMJD) is a human rights advocacy organization established in 1988 in Kenema, Sierra Leone. NMJD operates in all regions of the country, with functioning offices in six districts.

Aims and purposes of the organization

NMJD aims to create a just and self-reliant society in Sierra Leone, where individuals and communities live in dignity without fear and discrimination, towards sex, race, faith, socioeconomic and political status. The organization advocates and strengthens the capacity of civil society organizations to engage individuals, communities, government and other actors for the transformation of society.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

During the reporting period, NMJD:

- Trained paralegals, including on the Three Gender Acts of 2012, in order to promote and protect human rights in local communities;
- Facilitated periodic Accountability Forums in operational chiefdoms in Bo and Pujehun districts, Sierra Leone;
- Worked with the National Elections Watch to monitor all electoral processes in the country;
- Contributed to the fight against the Ebola virus; and
- Organized a National Civil Society Forum to discuss and develop strategies for effective public interest activism.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives attended the following meetings:

- The workshop organized by the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), 9-10 December 2011, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia;
- The 2nd “African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Mineral Resource Development” of the African Union Commission and UNECA, 12-16 December 2011, Addis Ababa; and
- The High-level Civil Society Seminar on Peace and Stability organized by United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) on 26-28 March 2012, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

NMJD received a two-year grant from the United Nations Democracy Fund to strengthen the capacity of civil society in Sierra Leone. NMJD is a member of the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) Civil Society Consultative Forum on human rights, rule of law and development issues in Sierra Leone. It also partners with the United Nations agencies to fight to the Ebola virus.

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

The organization supported the MDGs by:

- Organizing School Monitoring and Advocacy Teams (SMATs) in Bombali district, Sierra Leone, to monitor and hold duty bearers accountable for the protection of the children rights of and the provision of basic education services;

- Launching its Community Monitoring for Accountable Health Service Delivery project in Kono district, Sierra Leone, aimed to increase access and improve the quality of healthcare services; and
- Monitoring both the Free Healthcare and Free Basic Education policies.

12. New Seminary

Special, 2003

Introduction

The New Seminary is a non-profit organization incorporated under the guidelines of the Board of Regents of the University of New York, United States of America. The organization has trained and ordained close to 3,000 Interfaith Ministers.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The New Seminary aims to help individuals and communities in deepening their understanding of, and honouring their expressions of faith; ordain and train Interfaith Ministers to serve as messengers of peace, tolerance and understanding; promote interfaith education as a means of resolving global conflict and fostering tolerance; and sponsor programmes focusing on the common moral values and community concerns shared by most faith and cultural traditions.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization opened a new office in Maryland, United States, where graduate degrees are offered.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The New Seminary contributed to the work of the United Nations by training and ordaining ministers each year as messengers and agents, promoting an Interfaith Approach as a tool for resolving global conflict and fostering equality and harmony. The organization held several community forums around the country and in select prisons where the interfaith message was presented. The organization participated in the programmes and efforts of the United Nations Committee on Spiritual Values and Global Concerns as well as the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives attended the sessions of the CSW in 2012 and 2013 and the Interfaith Harmony Week held in 2013, by offering volunteer programmes.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The New Seminary keeps offering to its students, staff and alumni to serve as volunteers with the general United Nations community to implement the MDG 8 and their individual programme needs.

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

The New Seminary supported MDG 1 by offering global poverty courses and structured dialogues to help ministerial students to be effective advocates and pastors for impoverished populations and communities. Toward MDG 3, it supported programmes such as the Sacred Women's Circles it sponsored in 2012 and 2103 as part of the Commission on the World Wide Status of Women. In addition, the organization regularly discusses and requires its students to be knowledgeable about the MDGs, and work with community-based organizations and programmes that support them.

13. Non-Governmental Ecological Vernadsky Foundation

Special, 2003

Introduction

Created in 1995, the Fund aims to achieve sustainable environment-oriented socioeconomic development of society on the basis of the scientific heritage of Academician VI Vernadsky.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Vernadsky Foundation aims to:

- Promote the fundamental principles of sustainable development;
- Promote the development and promotion of the scientific heritage of Academician VI Vernadsky;
- Improve environmental performance in the Russian Federation; and
- Increase international cooperation in the field of fund socioeconomic development, environmental protection, energy efficiency, environmental management, innovation and education.

Significant changes in the organization

The organization extended its activities to Kazakhstan and the Czech Republic.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

No contribution was specified.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives attended:

- The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, 20-22 June 2012, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;
- The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee, 36th Session, 24 June-6 July 2012, Saint Petersburg, Russia; and 37th Session, 16-27 June 2013, Phnom Penh, Cambodia;

- The 37th Session of the UNESCO General Conference, November 2013, Paris, France; and
- 5th and 6th Session of the Working Group on SDGs, 25-27 November and 9-13 December 2013.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Vernadsky Foundation collaborated with the United Nations Information Centre in Moscow, Russia, on environmental and sustainable development issues. It sponsored the 1st International Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, 22-25 May 2013, Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia. The conference was co-organized by the Commission of the Russian Federation for UNESCO.

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

The Vernadsky Foundation worked toward ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development. It contributed to the improvement of the national environmental legislation and exchange of best practices and conducted events on ecological education and sustainable development with the support of UNESCO. It conducted, under the auspices of UNESCO, its international project “Vernadsky Parallels” in Russia, Ukraine, France, Germany and Czech Republic in 2014. Finally, it launched scientific research events for young researchers in 2013.

14. Northern Ireland Women’s European Platform

Special, 1999

Introduction

Northern Ireland Women’s European Platform (NIWEP) is an umbrella organization for women’s groups and organizations with a commitment to gender equality and the vision for a Northern Ireland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, where equality exists between women and men.

Aims and purposes of the organization

NIWEP aims to reflect the position of women in Northern Ireland and ensure that it is represented in national and international standards and mechanisms; hold the government accountable for working towards equality; and inform and share international instruments and mechanisms with women to assist their work for equality.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization contributed through:

- Its representation of Northern Ireland among the United Kingdom organizations appointed to the European Women’s Lobby;
- The preparation of a shadow report for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- The development of a programme to engage with young women who are not involved in political decision; and
- The promotion and development of training programmes to promote the United Nations and its mechanisms to address gender inequality, including the resolution 1225 of the Security Council.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives attended the 55th to 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 2011-2014, New York. The organization organized side events, submitted publications and delivered statements during these sessions.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization has been involved in the annual International Women’s Day through collaboration and support with women’s groups and organizations in Northern Ireland. The organization has also been involved in Human Rights Week.

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

The organization trained women attending CSW 58, along with the Northern Ireland government in 2014, through visual presentations and a training manual.

15. OISCA International (South India chapter)

Special, 2007

Introduction

The Organization for Industrial Spiritual & Cultural Advancement — International (OISCA — International) was founded in October 1961 in Japan. OISCA came to South India in 1985. The organization currently has 66 chapters with more than 4,000 members.

Aims and purposes of the organization

OISCA-International contributes to humanity’s environmentally sustainable development through a holistic approach emphasising the interconnectedness of agriculture, ecological integrity and the human spirit. To accomplish this, experiential programmes are implemented in order to transmit knowledge and skills and cultivate spiritual qualities such as dedication and self-reliance.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Through seminars, classes and national and international conferences, the organization spreads the messages of the United Nations throughout South India, which includes almost 233 million people.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

During the reporting period, OISCA-International collaborated with the World Food Programme (WFP) to implement drinking water projects in various educational institutions in South India.

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

The organization conducted several initiatives:

- The Children’s Forest Programme (CFP): through awareness classes about the significance of tree plantation, around 100,000 saplings are planted every year with the participation of 75,000 students. A similar project is currently being implemented in Karnataka, India;
- OISCA Toshiba Forest at JSS Institutions at Mysore, was successfully implemented in 10 selected educational institutions of JSS Mahavidya Peetha, Mysore, India; and
- Scholarship Scheme for Girl Students: As a part of CFP, the organization distributed scholarships to help poor school girls who excel in studies.
