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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. American Civil Liberties Union

Special, 1996

Introduction

The mission of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) is to maintain and advance civil liberties as embodied in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution of United States of America and ratified treaties, including freedom of speech, association, press, religion, speech, and the rights to the franchise, to due process of law, and the equal protection of the law for all people throughout the United States of America and its possessions, or subject to its jurisdiction, wholly without partisanship.

Aims and purposes of the organization

To achieve these aims the ACLU engages in litigation, public education, documentation, and lobbying.

Significant changes in the organization

Current ACLU individual membership is near 500,000. ACLU membership continues to include persons from all 50 United States as well as Puerto Rico and Guam. As of March 31, 2015, the total assets of the ACLU Foundation are \$327,600,267. Total liabilities are \$85,866,394. Total support and revenue is \$87,819,497. Total expenses are \$85,678,343. The total assets of the ACLU, as of March 31, 2015, are \$392,400,181. Total liabilities are \$127,623,854. Total support and revenue is \$137,493,060. Total expenses are \$133,556,930.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

No contribution was specified.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The ACLU participated in the following meetings:

- "19th Regular session of the Human Rights Council" 27 February - 23 March 2012, Geneva, Switzerland.
- "21st Regular Session of the Human Rights Council" 10 September – 28 September

2012, 5 November 2012, Geneva, Switzerland.

- “20th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council” 18 June – 6 July 2012, Geneva, Switzerland.
- “Informal Hearing for Civil Society: Civil Society Forum on Treaty Body Strengthening” 4 September 2012.
- “67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly” 18 September 2012 – 11 September 2013, New York City, United States of America.
- “Second open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners”, 11 - 13 December 2012, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- “107th Session of the Human Rights Committee” 11-28 March 2013, Geneva, Switzerland.
- “22nd Session of the Human Rights Council” 28 February – March 21 2013, Geneva, Switzerland.
- “22nd Session of the UN Commission on Crime prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPJ)” 22-26 April 2013, Vienna, Austria.
- “24th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council” 9 – 27 September 2013, Geneva, Switzerland.
- “68th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA)” 17 September 2013 – 15 September 2014, New York City, United States of America.
- “57th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs” 13-21 March 2014, Vienna, Austria.
- “Third Meeting of the Intergovernmental Expert Group on the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners” 25-28 March 2014, Vienna, Austria.
- “22nd Session of the UN Human Rights Council Working Group on the UPR” 4 – 15 May 2015, Geneva, Switzerland.
- “30th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council” 14 September – 2 October 2015, Geneva, Switzerland.
- “29th Regular Session of the Human Rights Council” 15 June – 3 July 2015, Geneva, Switzerland.
- “70th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA)” 15 September 2015 –

September 2016, New York, United States of America.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Shadow Report Submissions:

Submitted Shadow Report to the Fourth Periodic Report of the United States regarding US compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) to the 109th Session of the Human Rights Committee, 13 September 2013.

Updates to 2013 Shadow Report – Submitted Update to the Shadow Report to the Fourth Periodic Report of the United States on US compliance with ICCPR to the 110th Session of the Human Rights Committee, 14 February 2014.

Shadow Report Submission to UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – Submitted Shadow Report to the 7th-9th Periodic Reports of the United States on US compliance with the ICERD to the 85th Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, 9 July 2014.

Shadow report submission to CAT – Submitted Shadow Report to the 3rd - 5th Periodic Reports of the United States on US compliance with CAT to the 53rd Session of the Committee Against Torture, 17 October 2014.

Letters to special rapporteurs:

Advocacy on US-Mexico Border Killings – Sent letter to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions and the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants requesting that the experts initiate an investigation and issue an “Urgent Appeal” communication regarding the serious and life-threatening human rights violations at the U.S.-Mexico border.,15 February 2013.

Letter to UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants – Submitted letter to

UNSR on the US's failure to return belongings to deported migrants.

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

Sponsorship of National ICCPR Training – Sponsored first-of-its-kind training of nearly 200 US advocates to explore the impact and engagement opportunities presented ICCPR and its monitoring body, March 2012, New York City, United States of America.

Release of Privacy Report at Human Rights Council – Released The Human Right to Privacy in the Digital Age at a side-event at the Human Rights Council.

2. Union Arabischer Mediziner in Europa

Special, 1996

Introduction

The Union Arabischer Mediziner in Europa (ARABMED) is an association of Arab doctors who live in various European countries, established and registered in Germany in 1983, is a non-profit organization that serves public purposes and focuses on medical, cultural and social activities and exchange. As an independent relief, it is not subject to the influence of governments or religious authorities. It has an elected administrative body composed of a President and Vice President. Members and several specialized committees meet regularly and have contacts to more than 2,000 doctors in Europe. All members, including the administrative body, are volunteers and do not receive any payments from ARABMED. is legally registered in the city of Erlangen, Germany.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Aims:

1. Collect the largest possible number of Arab doctors and medical staff of all Arab nationals in Europe;
2. Disseminate research results of Arab doctors in Europe to the international community;
3. Promote cooperation and friendship between Arab Doctors in Europe and medical academics in European and Arab countries;
4. Contribute to the development of medical societies in the Arab world and help them to advance in the medical or health-related research;
5. To enhance the medical knowledge of ARABMED members by supporting continuous medical education and research;
6. To promote professional relationships among members and organizations of the medical profession in Europe and the Arab world; and
7. To create friendly relationships among healthcare professionals.

Humanitarian aims:

1. Collect medicine and medical devices to sent to needy/affected areas;

2. Publicly claim the rights of oppressed peoples and the defense of human rights; and
3. Distribute monetary and in-kind donations to those in need in the Arab world.

Significant changes in the organization

Recently, new branches of ARABMED were established in Ukraine in 2015.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

ARABMED organized four scientific seminars in several countries every year.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No contribution was specified.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

1. World Health Organization (WHO): ARABMED has excellent relations with the World Health Organization (WHO). It cooperates and exchanges experiences with the WHO on a regular basis. It has participated in several WHO conferences and the World Medical conference, which discussed matters of preventive care and health status of mothers and children while contributing to the health improvement of villages in the Golan Heights in the Syrian Arab Republic.
2. Arab League: ARABMED has an advisory role in the Arab League's Department of Health Management.

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

Many of the activities listed above are in direct support of health-related Millennium Development Goals, in particular in reducing child mortality and improving maternal health.

In addition, ARABMED has undertaken the following complementary initiatives:

1. Contribute to the establishment of modern universities in the Arab world with reference to the European university system. The objective is to create a new generation of universities that serve and manage the patient in the best possible way by applying latest medical knowledge and state-of-the-art techniques in combination with modern management;

2. Help doctors wishing to specialize in medical institutions in Europe; and
3. Establish a special award for medical research.

3. United Methodist Church - General Board of Global Ministries

Special, 2000

Introduction

The General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) is the global mission agency of the United Methodist Church. GBGM works with the poor and marginalized to alleviate suffering and promote justice, freedom and peace. The integral part of GBGM's mission is to enable United Methodist congregations to put love into action through integrated programs that support sustainable livelihoods, global health, agriculture, food security, stewardship of natural resources and the environment, education, micro-finance, enterprise development, supplemental food programs, and human rights advocacy.

Aims and purposes of the organization

GBGM connects the church in mission, equipping and transforming people and places for God's mission around the world by Making disciples of Jesus Christ; Strengthening, developing, and renewing Christian congregations and communities; Alleviating human suffering; Seeking justice, freedom, and peace.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2012, GBGM's Women's Division became an independent organization, United Methodist Women. This led to a shift in some of our priorities in UN work to complement ongoing work of UMW.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

GBGM led an international delegation to civil society activities in New York in 2012 related to the Global Forum on Migration and Development at UN headquarters. In October 2012 GBGM helped facilitate meetings of NGOs in a special meeting of the Committee on the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People in conjunction with the Russell Tribunal on Palestine. In November 2013, Global Ministries representative delivered the civil society speech at the special meeting in observance of the International Day In Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Eleventh Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. 12th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. 51st Session of the Commission for Social Development. 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. High-Level meeting of the General Assembly on disability and development. 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. 13th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. 53rd Session of the Commission for Social Development. 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. 14th Session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

GBGM works closely with partners serving Palestinian refugees & UNRWA in the State of Palestine, Lebanon & Jordan. From the start of 2012 through the end of 2015, UMCOR provided more than \$3.3 million in humanitarian assistance to Syrian and Iraqi refugees and internally displaced persons. The aid was channeled through partner organizations in eight countries (Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Islamic Republic of Iran, Armenia, and Greece) and included emergency food, water, and nonfood items, mine removal, winterization kits, relief supplies, psychosocial support, shelter, education, health support, and others.

GBGM played active role in the NGO Working Group on Israel-Palestine that has organized regular events in conjunction with various UN bodies including a 2012 briefing for NGOs with UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Occupied Palestinian Territories.

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

Global Ministries has had a long-standing and active engagement in global health efforts for many decades. Between 2012 and 2015 over \$11m was awarded in grants to support faith based partners to implement health programs in 36 countries. Our malaria programs provided 986,549 long lasting insecticidal nets through community based distributions with 145,675 rapid diagnostic test kits and 207,004 doses of Artemisinin based combination

Malaria medication. These malaria commodities helped to fill gaps in faith based clinics and hospitals in nine African countries. In addition 16,105 pregnant women received malaria prophylaxis. The net distribution supported in Bo district of Sierra Leone in 2014 increased net ownership to 72.7%. In Maniema Province of Democratic Republic of Congo net ownership increased from 41% to 92.4% and from 25% to 96.5% in Yei, South Sudan. Average net use in these three locations increased from 30.4% to 87.3%. Our HIV community education has reached 90,025 people including 33,404 pregnant receiving HIV counselling and testing. In 2015 alone, the direct beneficiaries of Global Ministries funded health programs in Malaria and HIV was 2,193,008 persons. Access to health care was increased through 671 community health workers who received training to serve thousands of people without access to health care; and nine health facilities that were renovated to provide essential health care in communities where health services are urgently needed.

4. United Nations Association of China (UNA-China)

General, 2000

Introduction

The United Nations Association of China (UNA-China) is a non-governmental organization for the promotion of the cause of United Nations. Its purpose is to disseminate knowledge about the United Nations, to promote comprehension, research and popularization of the United Nations and its activities, to help realize the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, to enhance the understanding, friendship and cooperation among peoples of all nations and to contribute to the maintenance of world peace and development of common prosperity.

Aims and purposes of the organization

UNA-China admits both organizational members and individual members. UNA-China is a founding member of the World Federation of the United Nations Associations (WFUNA) and joined the Conference of NGOs (CONGO) in August 2000. UNA-China enjoys General Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and is associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations (DPI).

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

2012:

UNA-China hosted the seminar on United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Beijing, China, in March.

2013:

UNA-China organized the International Symposium on International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Beijing, China, in July, and hosted the Roundtable on Nuclear Disarmament and Nonproliferation in Beijing, China, in October.

2014:

UNA-China hosted the Seminar on the Nuclear Issue of Korean Peninsula in Beijing, China, in April; Representative of UNA-China attended the Seminar on Building A Sharing Society and delivered a keynote address on Post-2015 Development Agenda in February; offered advice on the design of the commemorative stamps for the 70th anniversary of the United Nations in July.

2015:

In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the founding of United Nations, UNA-China carried out a series of activities: hosted an international seminar in Beijing, China, in July; hosted and attended several academic seminars and workshops in China; co-organized a concert in Beijing, China, in September; published a book entitled *The 70 Years of UN: Achievements & Challenges*; organized a Painting and Calligraphy Exhibition in Beijing, China, in October.

UNA-China also co-hosted a Seminar on New Pivot of United Nations Peace Operations in July; co-hosted a Seminar on United Nations Resolution of Combating against the Illegal Trading of Wildlife in Beijing, China, in September.

Other activities:

UNA-China organized the annual United Nations Human Rights Knowledge Training Program in Tianjin 2012, Beijing, China, 2013, Wuhan, China, 2014 and Guilin, China, 2015.

UNA-China organized the 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th China National Model United Nations (MUN) Conference in Tianjin (2012), Guangzhou (2013), Nanjing (2014) and Shanghai (2015) respectively and supported hundreds of MUN activities across China.

UNA-China organized the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th International Civil Servants Capacity Building Training Program in Shanghai (2012), Beijing (2013), Shanghai (2014), and Hangzhou

(2015), China.

UNA-China frequently organized lectures on United Nations-related issues across China. Representatives received interviews and published articles about United Nations through various media, aiming at promoting the public's understanding of the United Nations and its work.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

2012

Representatives attended the Roundtable hosted by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) China on Global Development Framework in Post-2015 Era in Beijing, China, in May; attended United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June; co-hosted the Consultation Conference of United Nations Alliance of Civilization in Asia-Pacific in Shanghai, Brazil, in November.

2013

Representatives attended the Roundtable hosted by UNDP China on the Rise of South: Human's Progress in Pluralist World in Beijing, China, in March.

2014

Representatives attended the International Conference on Global Governance in Transformation: China and the United Nations in Shanghai, China, in January hosted by United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

2012-2015:

UNA-China and the United Nations System in China co-sponsored the United Nations Day receptions every year in October in Beijing, China.

2012

UNA-China hosted the welcome banquet for the United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Ban

Ki-moon in July; co-hosted the Seminar on the National Consultation Project of the Post-2015 International Development and Cooperation Agenda with UNDP China in Yunnan, China, in December.

2013

UNA-China hosted a Roundtable meeting with the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Jan Eliasson in Beijing in February; co-hosted the Seminar on the National Consultation Project of Post-2015 Development Agenda with the United Nations System in China in March; co-organized a Roundtable meeting on Post-2015 Development Agenda with World Bank China Office in Beijing, China, in July.

2014

Representatives of UNA-China met with officials of United Nations Office of Human Resources Management and co-hosted workshops on United Nations recruitment system in universities of Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin, China, in May.

2015

UNA-China delegation met with some United Nations officials in New York, United States of America, in May. Upon invitation, an Under Secretary-General and an Assistant Secretary-General attended the International Seminar in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of United Nations in July hosted by UNA-China.

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

UNA-China co-organized public events on Millennium Development Goals and China in Beijing, China, in February 2013, January 2014 and November 2015.

Additional Information

UNA-China has cooperated with UNAs of Japan and Republic of Korea on organizing annual Trilateral Meeting, Youth Forum and East Asian Seminar on the United Nations System; supported many Chinese universities in United Nations studies and education; coordinated Chinese scholars to attend the annual conferences of Academic Council of

United Nations Studies. Representatives regularly attended World Federation of United Nations Associations' events.

5. Universal Networking Digital Language Foundation

Special, 2004

Introduction

The mission of the UNDL Foundation is to develop the Universal Networking Language (UNL), a multilingual infrastructure that enables people to overcome the language barriers across ethnic communities and countries. This initiative was launched by the United Nations University's Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU/IAS) in Tokyo, Japan, in 1996, and entrusted to the UNDL Foundation by the United Nations in 2001. The UNL invention was patented in the name of the United Nations in order to keep it as a patrimony of humankind. To this day, 5 patents were granted to UNL, 2 by the United States of America, one by China and 2 by Japan. They are the first patents ever granted to the United Nations.

The UNL is an Interlingua for computers that allows extremely efficient translation in multiple languages and very advanced tools for navigation in knowledge systems. The mission and long term objectives is to develop and deploy all kind of multilingual products and services that can be provided on the UNL infrastructure.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Continuous development and improvement of the core UNL linguistic resources and supporting software and making the UNL available to all United Nations member states.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The UNDL Foundation has the goal and duty to promote and develop the UNL on behalf of the United Nations. This relationship is formalised in an official Agreement signed in October 2005 with the United Nations.

It also implies defending the patents of UNL which are in its custody in the name of the

Secretary General of the United Nations.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Representatives attended the ECOSOC Briefing, every year in Geneva, Switzerland.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

On 27 and 29 February 2012, The UNDL Foundation's vice-president, CAO and another director met in New York, United States of America, with the director of the UN Office of Legal Affairs, Mr Jay Pozenel to discuss the Agreement between the two parties.

On 9th May 2014, The UNDL Foundation's President, vice-president and CAO met in Tokyo, Japan, with the new Rector of the United Nations University (UNU), Dr. David Malone, one vice-Rector of UNU and the director of administration of UNU.

On 16 July 2015, The UNDL Foundation's CAO and its communication officer met in her UN Geneva, Switzerland, office with Ms Lidiya Grigoreva then new NGO Liaison officer for UNOG.

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

Goal 3: Facilitating access to knowledge is a way to empower women's role in the society, as well as in reducing child mortality and increasing maternal health. The UNL multilingual platform constitutes a powerful mechanism for providing technical assistance to the local communities in their native languages.

Goal 7: Translating EOLSS in multiple languages represents a significant contribution to this goal. EOLSS provides a firm knowledge base for future activities to prolong the lifetime of the human race in a hospitable environment. A comprehensive and coherent body of knowledge to preserve life on Earth and to ensure sustainable development is needed.

Goal 8: By providing peoples from different linguistic backgrounds with the UNL platform we are enabling them communicate with each other in their mother language; thus

facilitating reciprocal knowledge, mutual understanding, solidarity and cooperation in common development endeavours.

Additional Information

Multilingualism Day was observed by the UNDL Foundation, 21st February 2012 – 2015 (International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1999 and has since been observed yearly on the 21st of February).

6. Universal Peace Federation

Special, 2004

Introduction

UPF is an international and interreligious network of individuals and organizations, including representatives from religion, civil society and the private sector.

Aims and purposes of the organization

UPF is dedicated to achieving world peace and supports the work of the United Nations, particularly in the areas of interfaith peacebuilding, peace education, and the strengthening of marriage and family.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

UPF organized several conferences on various United Nations topics including: Peace, security and development: 2012-2015: 5 conferences in Asia, 3 in United States of America, 3 in Eurasia, 2 in Europe, and 1 in Africa; Interreligious Dialogue: 1 conference in Asia, 1 in Eurasia; Sustainable Development: 2012-2015: 3 conferences in Asia, 3 in Eurasia, and 2 in United States. Included are 2 events at the United Nations Headquarters in Vienna, Austria (2012, 2015), 1 in Geneva, Switzerland, (2014) and 1 in New York, United States (2015).

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Statements made on Sustainable Development at United Nations Conference of the Office of United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), New York, United States, 20 June 2012; on Families at the annual ministerial review of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, New York, United States, 7 May 2014; on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, New York, United States, 1 January 2015. UPF organized side events during the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly for peace and health disabilities, New York, United States, 24 September 2013; 56th, 57th, and

58th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on women's issues, New York, United States, 14, 15, and 19 of March 2012-14; 52nd and 53rd Session of the United Nations Commission on Social Development to emphasize family as a key driver of development, New York, United States, 13 and 21 of February 2014-15; 27th Session of the Human Rights Council on the Protection of Family, Geneva, Switzerland, 12-16 September 2014.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

UPF partnered with United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) in New York, United States, to promote interfaith dialogue 18 February 2015, and for Globalization and Sustainable Development, New York, United States, 31 October 2014; with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for International Autism Day and Global Day of Parents, Moldova, 2 April 2014 and 1 June 2013; United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for European Leadership in France, 12-13 April 2012, for Ecology Conference in Moldova, 22 May 2014, for children's education in Congo, 10 November 2014 and France, 2 August 2014, for an American Leadership Conference in New York, United States, 19 December 2014; United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs to observe Atomic Bomb Awareness Day in Austria, 8 August 2014; UNITAR, Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), UNAOC, and Holy See for a Sustainable Development Conference in the United Nations Headquarters, 27 March 2015; African Union to observe Africa Day, New York, 26,25,27 May 2013-15; African Union and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to observe World Cities Day, United Nations Headquarters, 29-30 October 2015.

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

The organization contributed to: MDG 2 in Jamaica, Thailand (2012); Albania, Nepal (2013); France (2014) by helping orphans, establishing and renovating schools. MDG 3 in Canada, Belgium (2012) by promoting human rights. MDG 6 in Mali, Lesotho (2012); Nigeria, Sri Lanka (2014) by organizing a project about HIV/AIDS, a Health for Peace Initiative against the spread of Ebola, and for HIV patients and orphans. MDG 7 in Thailand, Russia, New York, United States, Nepal, Brazil, Russia, Cambodia, Indonesia

(2012); Russia (2014); Washington DC, United States, (2014) by organizing service projects, launching education campaigns, and promoting ecological awareness and ecotourism. International Days were observed: UN Day (2013: 2 nations), Human Rights Day (2013:1 country), International Day of Peace (2012: 33 nations; 2013: 53 locations; 2014: 45 nations; 2015: 42 nations), International Women's Day (2012: 14 nations; 2013: 15 nations; 2014: 15 nations; 2015: 5 nations), Interfaith Harmony Week (2012: 34 nations; 2013: 16 nations; 2014: 23 nations; 2015: 22 nations), International Day of Families (2012: 105 locations; 2013: 28 nations; 2014: 29 nations; 2015: 18 nations), Global Day of Parents (2013: 20 nations; 2014: 5 nations; 2015: 6 countries).

Additional Information

UPF representative as Chair, NGO Committee on Spirituality, Values, and Global Concerns, New York, United States. Chair, NGO Committee on the Family, New York, United States.

7. Unnayan Onneshan

Special, 2012

Introduction

The Unnayan Onneshan (UO) is an independent multidisciplinary research organisation, based in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The organisation's vision is of an egalitarian world free from all forms of inequality, injustices, discrimination and exploitation. The UO's mission is to advance science-led independent research, evidence-based new approaches to public policies, innovative alternative solutions on the ground, and empowering capacity building and community-based management for contributing towards progressive social transformation.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The UO is divided into two divisions - Research and Programme Development and Management. The Research Division is divided into three units – Economic Policy, Social Policy, and Ecology and Environment. The Programme Development and Management Division provides advisory services, technical assistance and capacity building to the government and local, national, international, bilateral and multilateral organisations.

The UO brings publications such as Bangladesh Economic Update on a monthly basis and five annual independent reviews on (a) economy and development (b) poverty, (c) food security, (d) women and (e) labour. The UO's nine research programmes result into regular publications on governance, growth, equity, trade, agriculture, climate change, biodiversity, women rights and gender equality, education and health.

The UO's research feeds directly into practical policy proposals (e.g. the UO has provided advisory services to the government to enhance its capacity through Bangladesh Trade Support Programme). The UO's pioneering innovations are making differences (e.g. capacity building services to local organisations help farmers adopt to the climate change, aid local communities to form collectives for sustainable use of biodiversity and eco-system services in the Sunderbans). The UO also hosts dialogues of politicians, officials, business,

development practitioners, academics and experts to generate innovative solutions.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Research on the MDGs and Post – 2015 Agenda: The staff wrote articles, gave seminars at home and abroad and published on different public debate forums and peer-reviewed journals.

Biodiversity, Finance and Poverty Eradication: The staff contributed as members of the expert committees to the relevant UN bodies (e.g. UN Convention of Biological Diversity (UN-CBD) and its subsidiary bodies).

Climate Change: The UO advanced new findings, which has not only been incorporated in plans of the government, but also help designed interventions by many NGOs in adapting to adverse effects of climate change.

Multilateralism - The UO staff, as regular contributor the electronic and print media, advocated for the necessity of multilateralism, spearheaded by the UN and its bodies.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Represented at 17th meeting of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada, 14 - 18 October 2013

Represented at 18th meeting of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada, 23 - 28 June 2014

Represented at 19th meeting of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada, 2 - 5 November 2015

Represented at 11th meeting of Conference of the Parties to Convention on Biological Diversity, Hyderabad, India, 8 - 19 October 2012

Represented at 2nd Expert Meeting on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development of Convention on Biological Diversity, Chennai, India 4-6 December 2013

Represented at Financing for Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity on 18-19 August 2014 in Kartause Ittingen, Switzerland

Represented at UN University's 4th Global Conference in Fukui, Japan on 12-14 September 2013

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Signed a Contract with the United Nations Population Fund in Bangladesh to study on the impacts of the demographic trends on socio-economic development in Bangladesh in 2014

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

Titumir, R. A. M. and M Kamal. 2013. "Growing Together Sustainably: A zero-poverty post-2015 development framework," *Development*, Vol. 56. No. 2.

Titumir, R. A. M. and M Rahman "Achieving the MDGs Targets in Nutrition: Does Inequality Matter?" Dhaka: Unnayan Onneshan

Titumir, R. A. M. and M Rahman "Health Related Millennium Development Goals in Bangladesh: A Reality Check," Dhaka: Unnayan Onneshan

International Key Note Speech:

- "Growing Together Sustainably: A Zero-Poverty Post -2015 Development Framework," organized by Institute of Developing Economies - Japan External Trade Organization in Chebu, Japan 9 September 2013
- "Growing Together Sustainably: A Post -2015 Development Framework," organised

by University of Malaya in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 17th September 2013

The UO staff gave numerous media interviews on the post-2015 development agenda, besides contributing to different workshops and seminars organised by government, UN bodies and NGOs at home and abroad

8. UPR Info

Special, 2012

Introduction

UPR Info is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation (NGO) with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, and two regional offices in Thailand and Kenya. The organisation has held Special Consultative status with ECOSOC since 2012. Since its creation in April 2008, UPR Info is the first and only organisation in the world focusing specifically on the Universal Periodic Review, a United Nations Human Rights Council. The organisation works on all human rights issues and on all countries without discrimination or politicization. We are an impartial, non-advocacy NGO.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The main goal of UPR Info is to raise awareness about the Universal Periodic Review by providing information and capacity-building tools to the different actors of the UPR process, such as United Nations Member States, National Human Rights Institutions, academics and other actors.

Significant changes in the organization

Since our creation, we opened 2 regional offices, in Kenya and in Thailand. In Thailand, the registration is finalised, and in Kenya, it is still on going. The aim of those offices is to be able to better support governments and other actors in the implementation of UPR recommendations. We provide trainings to all actors. In the past, we have trained governments of Mongolia, Thailand, Kenya, Malawi, and Namibia. In 2015, a new President was elected, Miloon Kothari, former UN Special Rapporteur on adequate housing.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

We are contributing to the work of the United Nations in the Universal Periodic Review. To this end, we maintain a website providing information, documents, tools, analysis, deadlines about the participation in the UPR.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

We have attended every Human Rights Council session and every Universal Periodic Review session since 2012.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

We regularly cooperate with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Council

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

UPR Info works on the Universal Periodic Review, which sometimes refers to the MDGs. However, we are now trying to follow the SDGs. We will aim to ensure that UPR and SDGs can promote and protect human rights together.

9. USA Mali Charitable Association of NYC

Special, 2012

Introduction

USA-Mali Charitable Association Of NYC is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to women and children causes. It was created by Malian immigrants living in New York City, United States of America. Mali being among the poorest countries in the world, the founders have witnessed the hardships women and children face daily. They took action by creating UMACA.

Aims and purposes of the organization

USA-Mali Charitable Association Of New York (UMACA) strives to empower Malian women, especially those living in rural areas. This assistance comes in form of education (information sharing on the tools to help them better manage their small businesses) and donations medical supplies to local, poorly equipped health centers. To date, procreation is still very risky for Malian woman. The rate of infant mortality is among the highest in the world. To combat child malnutrition, UMACA proceeds periodically by donating dry, highly nutritious foods to women associations operating in villages and the outskirts of the capital city of Bamako, Mali.

To make it easier for African women to adapt to American society , USA- Mali Charitable Association Of New York help them acquire some basic skills by organizing English and computer classes. Empowering women is the most important and quintessential goal for the organization.

Significant changes in the organization

To make the African diaspora feel at home here in New York, United States, USA-Mali Charitable Association Of New York created the Malian Cultural Center Lobbo. This center has been a big plus for it created entertainment opportunities for the diaspora and added for diversity to New York's cultural landscape.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Since its creation, the organization has worked tirelessly to create better economic and social environment for underserved populations in Mali. The organization's contribution to the work of the United Nations can be seen in the education opportunities that it offers to little girls in rural areas across Mali, advocating rights for women, advocating social changes to expand opportunities to women. Through conferences and TV advertisement, the organization has mounted a robust campaign against domestic violence and genital mutilation on girls. The organization firmly believes that creating better economic plight for all and making education accessible to all reduces the causes of conflicts and political unrest, goals that are very important to the United Nations.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Since gaining consultative status from ECOSOC, the organization has been a steady participant of the UN's meetings. Its president and secretary have been regularly to meetings. Each year, along the General Assembly of the UN, UMACA (USA-Mali Charitable Association of New York) organizes a conference for the advancement of its goals, which are consistent with the work of the United Nations' specialized agencies such as UNDP. The organization was very pleased to have registered the presence of the Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and his wife to its last year's conference which produced a plan of action to combat genital mutilation, a harmful tradition still practiced on girls across most of Africa.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization has a very productive relationship with the Economic, Social Council. Although the organization has had no direct working relationship with UNESCO and WFP, its work on the ground is in line with their goals.

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

The organization fully supports the Millennium Development Goals. It has taken a series of initiatives to that effect.

On education:

USA-Mali Charitable Association Of New York has helped number of local associations with school supplies and funds to recruit and train teachers. It is helping Malian authorities expand schools to every village. In 2009 and 2012, thanks to American donors, UMACA has shipped valuable quantities of school supplies in the villages of Farabana and Kignero.

On health:

The organization shares the UN's goal of bringing health care closer to the populations. It has helped the populations of Falla and Kignero, two (2) remote villages build, equip and maintain their health centers. UMACA continues to support them with medical supplies.

On Civic education:

The organization works for the emergence of a strong civil society in Mali. It has partnered with Open Mali to promote the creation and empowerment of local organizations to spread freedom of press and democracy. The organization wants to improve the community-based decision making in Mali.

Additional Information

The organization has created a website designed to garner support to fight genital mutilation: www.girlsfinallymater.com. The organization will heavily invest in that fight.

10. VDE Prüf- und Zertifizierungsinstitut GmbH

Special, 2012

Introduction

The VDE Testing and Certification Institute is accredited on a national and international level for the area of testing and certification of electrotechnical equipment, components and systems. Testing and scrutinizing of electrotechnical products is conducted for safety, electromagnetic compatibility and other characteristics.

Aims and purposes of the organization

As the leading neutral E + I technology platform in Germany, the VDE networks science, business and politics in order to promote the interdisciplinary development and innovative application of trendsetting technologies in electrical engineering, electronics and information technology. To this end, the VDE supports knowledge exchange, education, standardization, testing and certification at the highest level to ensure that knowledge leads to efficient, effective and safe applications that secure high living standards and the quality of life.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization is actively engaged in many activities regarding product usability and safety by holding Chairs of ample committees such as IECEE (International Commission on the Rules for the Approval of Electrical Equipment) – an International system for mutual recognition of test results on the basis of IEC standards, IECEE Committee for Factory Surveillance (IECEE-CFS), HAR certification scheme for cables and cords by the European Electrical Products Certification Association, the CIG Operational Staff Meeting for Factory Inspection Procedures (OSM/FIP), the sector committee "Low Voltage Directive" EK 1 of the Central Authority of the Federal States for Safety (ZLS). Additionally, it holds memberships in the Executive Committee of the European Certification Schemes for

electrical products (ECS), and in the German Committee for Product Safety of the Federal Institute for occupational Safety and Health. Furthermore, it has a cooperation with market authorities for all legal requirements including safety, electromagnetic compatibility, chemical safety and sustainability, as well as eco-design. Furthermore, it opened a new Battery and Environment Testing Center in Offenbach, Germany, held the World Smart Grid Forum 2013 in collaboration with the International Electrotechnical Commission and the State Grid Corporation of China in Berlin, Germany, and organized the General Meeting of the International Electrotechnical Commission in Frankfurt, Germany.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization held the tenth Meeting of Rechargeable Energy Storage Systems (RESS) on 29 October 2013 in the context of the UN Working Party on Passive Safety on lithium battery testing requirements, definitions concerning electric vehicles and battery safety listed in the “Vehicle Propulsion System Definitions”, working items out of RESS-9-6 and RESS-9-8, partial water immersion with regards to rupture, fire, explosion and loss of electrolytes or isolation. Please refer to <https://www2.unece.org/wiki/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=3178625>.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization scrutinized, amended, and improved regulations in the course of the tenth meeting of Rechargeable Energy Storage Systems in accordance with the aims of Working Party on Passive Safety.

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

The organization mainly contributes to the millennial goals of ensuring environmental sustainability on the one hand and providing global partnership for development on the other. By ensuring and enabling low noise, chemical, and electrical pollution, the organization provides the base for healthy and safe product usability. Imposing German, European and international standards on foreign products helps reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and elimination of ozone-depleting substances with regards to mechanical and structural design.

Additional Information

We would like to continue our commitment as NGO with special consultative status in order to contribute to a worldwide social benefit.

11. Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund, Inc.

Special, 2004

Introduction

The Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (VGIF) provides grants globally to fund locally generated projects that advance the rights of women and girls.

Aims and purposes of the organization

VGIF is an international women's fund based in the United States of America. We support women-led organizations to implement projects in communities around the globe – projects that help improve the lives of women and girls by advancing women's rights and social justice.

Since its founding in 1969, VGIF has funded more than 515 projects in 93 countries, focusing on a broad range of issues from education and health, to economic empowerment and human rights. VGIF believes that women know best what will help improve and enrich life in their own communities and they are the only ones equipped to empower themselves.

VGIF is a public foundation and annual support from our members, as well as occasional donations from individuals and groups, help make VGIF's grantmaking possible.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2013, VGIF decided to move from an operational Board of Directors with one staff person, to a governance Board with multiple staff, including two full time staff members focused on grantmaking. This also allowed for an expanded United Nations program, permitting staff and interns to follow meetings that related directly to international development and gender equality.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Each year, VGIF Board, Committee members, staff and interns participate in hundreds of United Nations' meetings that focus on the empowerment of women and girls and gender

equality. VGIF also works to ensure the inclusion of women's grassroots voices at the United Nations by funding a grantee to come to New York to participate as an NGO delegate at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and to speak at VGIF sponsored parallel events. VGIF engages youth representatives from local universities to contribute to the dialogue via an internship program that allows them to attend United Nations and nongovernmental organization meetings on issues that affect women and girls.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

VGIF contributed an oral statement at “Coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda” on April 22, 2012, and contributed written statements at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March of 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. VGIF also held co-sponsored parallel events during CSW all four years, bringing grantees from Uganda, Georgia, Nepal and India respectively.

Board and Committee members, staff and interns attended the 56th, 57th, 58th, and 59th sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, United States, in March 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015. Staff and interns also attended the 51st, 52nd, and 53rd sessions of the Commission on Social Development and the 13th, 14th, and 15th Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples in New York, United States. The former meetings took place in February 2013, 2014, and 2015 and the latter in May of the same years. Committee members, staff and interns participated in the Conference on Nongovernmental Organizations' Committees on Women, Trafficking and Financing for Development. Committee members attended Thursday morning Department of Public Information briefings all four years and have filed required accreditation reports annually.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

VGIF staff and interns write reports and blogs on their United Nations' meeting attendance for the VGIF Board and membership, and use VGIF's Facebook, Twitter, and website to provide quotes, facts, and anecdotes.

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

VGIF funded over 140 grants amounting to more than \$1,275,000 during the past 4 years. These grants supported the Millennium Development Goals which relate to women and girls and focused on six thematic areas: Economic Development and Empowerment; Education; Environment, Food and Water Security; Health, Wellness, and Bodily Integrity; Human Rights and Legal Status; and Leadership and Movement Building. Most grants were made to organizations in the Africa and Asia/Pacific regions.

12. VIVAT International

Special, 2004

Introduction

There have been no changes.

Aims and purposes of the organization

There have been no changes.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

VIVAT contributes to the work of the United Nations through its work on poverty eradication, Sustainable development and culture of peace, focusing on education, health, women empowerment, migration, environment; indigenous peoples. VIVAT served in New York based Non-governmental Organization(NGO) Committees: Member and Chair of Financing for Development (FfD), contributed to the outcome document as part of FfD committee; Executive Committee member of Addis Ababa Coordinating Group and FfD Forum; Communications Secretary, Rights of Indigenous Peoples; Member: Mining Working Group(MWG); Social Development, Working Group on Girls(WGG); Status of Women, Migration, Stop Human Trafficking; Engaged in Rio+20 Conference and Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); Supported Social Protection for All initiative.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

VIVAT participated annually(2012-2015) in Commission on Social Development (CSoCD); Commission on Status of Women(CSW); Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues(UNFPII); Participated in: Substantive session of 2012 High-level segment(HLS): Annual Ministerial Review2012; (Rio+20)- United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development(2012); International Migration and Development: High-Level Dialogue(2013), Commission on

Sustainable Development 20th Session(2013); OWG on SDGs Sessions(2013-2014); High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples(2014); Third FfD Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2015)

Submitted individual and joint Written Statements: CSoCD: on poverty eradication, mining and Sustainable Development- E/CN.5/2012/NGO/19, E/CN.5/2014/NGO/52; E/CN.5/2012/NGO/11; Endorsed E/CN.5/2013/NGO/2, E/CN.5/2013/NGO/20, E/CN.5/2013/NGO/28, E/CN.6/2013/NGO/45, E/CN.5/2014/NGO/9, E/CN.5/2014/NGO/18, E/CN.5/2014/NGO/24, E/CN.5/2014/NGO/32, E/CN.5/2015/NGO/15, E/CN.5/2015/NGO/34.

CSW: on women's concerns, anti-trafficking E/CN.6/2012/NGO/33; E/CN.6/2013/NGO/149, E/CN.6/2013/NGO/14; Endorsed E/CN.6/2013/NGO/45; Joint oral statement on gender-based violence (2013)

HLS: Annual Ministerial Review(2012)- E/2012/NGO/37; Eighth Session of OWG(2014): on land-grabbing and biodiversity Cosponsored side events, Church Center(CCUN) New York, United States, and Rio Room: CSW56: Climate Change and Poverty: 03/01/2012; CSW57: Gold Fever: Global Screening: 10/17/2013; CSW59: "Women's Spirituality in contemporary world, 03/18/2015; CSocD50: Poverty and HIV infection 02/10/2012; 65th Annual UNDPI/NGO Conference: Human Rights and MDGs, 08/28/2014; 13th and 14th Sessions of UNFPII: Truth and Justice for El Salvador, 04/19/2013; Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 04/17/2014; Two events at Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, on Human Rights in West Papua, Indonesia, 28th and 30th Sessions of HRC 03/18/2015; 09/15/2015

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Participated in Human Rights Council(HRC) Regular Sessions(2012- 2015); Joint-written Submissions to HRC Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review(UPR): Indonesia(2012): A/HRC/WG.6/13/IDN/3; Pakistan(2012): A/HRC/WG.6/14/PAK/3; Plurinational State of Bolivia(2014):A/HRC/WG.6/20/BOL/3; Oral and Joint Oral Submissions at Clustered interactive dialogue(ID) with Special Rapporteurs during 24th,

25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th Sessions on maternal health, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, freedom of religion and belief, education and indigenous peoples Joint written and oral Statements to 22nd,23rd,25th Sessions on human rights, consideration of UPR: A/HRC/22/NGO/71, A/HRC/22/NGO/100, A/HRC/22/NGO/107, A/HRC/22/NGO/83, A/HRC/23/NGO/31, A/HRC/25/NGO/5; Joint Statement to International Labour Conference 101st Session on Social Protection Floor(2012); Post-Rio+20: contributed to consultations, e-discussions on environmental sustainability; Jointly signed letter to General Assembly 68th Session to Secretary General to guarantee the Human Right to Water in Post-2015 agenda(2014); Responded to Zero-Draft of the Outcome Document for the United Nations Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda ‘Transforming our World by 2030: A New Agenda for Global Action’, as part of MWG(2015); Written comments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights(OHCHR) on the strategic management Plan(2014-2017); Special Appeal letters to High Commissioner of Human Rights(2012), to Permanent Missions-Brazil, Peru on mining(2013), Sri Lanka on death penalty; Nigeria on abduction of school girls(Joint Appeal 2014).

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

VIVAT contributed to the MDGs in Africa, Asia, Europe, Americas and Oceania promoting the values and goals of ECOSOC. Goal 1(Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger): Persons benefited: 249,634. Goal 2(universal primary education): 433,039 children. Goal 3(Gender Equality and Empower Women): Education of Women/girls through life skills: 72,123; Job skills training: 83,457. Goal 4 (Reduce child mortality): Immunization: 196,134 children. Goal 5 (Improve maternal health): Pre/post Natal Care: 330,334 women. Goal 6(Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases): treatments of HIV/AIDS patients: 22684; malaria: 16923; awareness building: 3,401,122 people. Goal 7(environmental sustainability): planting trees: 678,870 trees; Goal 8(Global partnership for development): collaboration for activities/ service: 356,845

Additional Information

-updated members on United Nations systems, priorities, documents, through emails, website, newsletters;

- Conducted workshops on United Nations systems and priorities in Indonesia, The Philippines(2012), Ghana, Nigeria(2013); Paraguay(2014); India(2015); Spain(2015).
- Promoted MY World Survey of United Nations(2013)
- Encouraged events and awareness building through commemoration of United Nations Days such as Day of Peace; Human Rights Day, Women's Day, World AIDS Day

13. Voice of Change International

Special, 2012

Introduction

Voice of Change International, Accra, Ghana, West Africa

Aims and purposes of the organization

We exist to empower women and their communities through health including maternal health and sexual reproductive health, human rights among other issues through staunch advocacy. We do this through collaboration with other local and international organizations committed to the same principles

Significant changes in the organization

Voice of Change International is making efforts to strengthen the organizational membership and funding beyond Ghana and also establish new organizational affiliations with other UN bodies through partnership to help build up the organization's capacity and achieve the aims and objectives of the UN

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Contribution made by Voice of Change International to the work of the United Nations includes Organizing public education and health awareness campaigns through audio-visual medium, writing and distribution of books on causes, effects and prevention of on HIV/AIDs awareness, and other Sexually Transmitted Infections, women's health issues, Drug Abuse, Unsafe Abortion, Cervical Cancer, Amongst women and girls aged between 12 and 55 in first and second cycle institutions, Rural and peri-urban communities in Ghana to support the work of UNAIDs, UNODC, UN women, and other UN Bodies and programmes to promote the work of the UN and help achieve its goals.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Voice of Change International efforts to contribute to the work of the UN and ECOSOC, includes, contributing to the 2013 Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council

(ECOSOC), through written statement which was accepted for distribution to all participants of the session by The NGO Branch of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, among others

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Voice of Change International's Corporation with the UN Bodies includes the organization's partnering with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) through membership to help in dealing with the complex issues of drug abuse and crime which undermine the fabric of societies in UN member countries and to help the UNODC carry out its global mandates

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

Initiatives taken by the organization Voice of change international in support of the Millennium Development Goals include the following: To date, VOCI has been engaged in public education in women's health issues through Development of health awareness campaigns of causes, effects and prevention of Unsafe Abortion, Cervical Cancer, Candidiasis, Sexually Transmitted Infections, HIV/AIDs Amongst women and girls aged between 12 and 55 in first and second cycle institutions, Rural and peri- urban communities in Ghana to promote the health of women and enable Ghana and the rest of Africa achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. The campaigns, conducted through audio-visual medium, writing and distribution of Books such as "What You Need to Know about HIV/AIDs and STIs", "Candidiasis, Causes and Prevention", among others through awareness creation and behavioral change and social media through Web 2.0, casts a lasting impression on the target Audience, and provides positive feedback to our outfit.

Additional Information

The management and staff of the organization Voice of Change International would want to use this opportunity to express our gratitude to the United Nations for this opportunity of granting our organization a consultative status, and we hope to strengthen this partnership and work harder to transform lives.

14. Voices of African Mothers, Inc.

Introduction

Voices of African Mothers, Inc. (VAM) has headquarters in Ghana, W. Africa and at 777 UN Plaza, New York 10017, United States of America. We are incorporated and certified in Ghana and a 501(c)3 charitable organization in the United States. We are a registered Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Special Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC; a Partner in Development with EuropeAid; Organizing Partner with the CSD ending in 2012; member of UN CoNGO; member of UNCTAD; member of UNEP; and listed in the Yearbook of International Organizations.

Aims and purposes of the organization

VAM works to establish a peaceful African continent. We seek to identify the causes of ethnic, religious and inter-communal conflict and to find practical and civil ways to mediate, prevent and limit such conflict. VAM wants women and future female generations: To possess a full range of educational opportunities; To attain economic empowerment; and To become decision-making leaders within their various African countries.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

We participated in each of the 56, 57, 58 and 59 Sessions for the Commission on the status of Women. In 2012, we completed our term as an Organizing Partner and helped to finalize RIO +20 through 2012. In December 2014, we facilitated a conference titled “Ebola – Facts, Myths and Reality” at UN Church Center, New York, United States.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

We facilitated Parallel Events for each of the 56, 57, 58 and 59 Sessions for the Commission on the status of Women; attended sessions of CSD20 Conference in 2013. Attended 68th Session of the GA – major groups of civil society and other stakeholders had an opportunity

to engage in inter-governmental processes.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

For CSW59 VAM had a member participate in the NGO CSW/New York, United States (a substantive committee within CoNGO) monthly planning meetings for the Consultation Day forum, reception and schedule of events. In 2015, keeping with UNICEF mission, VAM registered over 250 children into the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) at the Tanoso community of Kumasi (an Ashanti Region), Ghana, Africa.

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

VAM's major programs and outreach projects are framed around the MDGs. Such as, "EDUCATION": John William Montessori School (JWMS) (Kumasi, Ghana), includes Adult Education Center for Computer Studies; VAM Girls Academy (Sogakope, Ghana); Exchange Students (Equatorial Guinea to Kumasi); Cornell University, United States, annual visits to assist VAM projects, supply books, computers and expertise in areas such as architecture and medical clinic design; school-to-school Skype program in collaboration with the LINKS, Inc (NGO) with students from JWMS and Woodlands High School, Mt. Vernon, New York, United States. "CHILD MORTALITY/HIV/AIDS": JWMS has challenged students, a medical clinic and a center for Autism Spectrum Disease; VAM supports the Mampong Babies Home established by Anglican Missionaries. "POVERTY AND HUNGER": we have farming initiatives in Sogakope, W. Ghana. "PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY, EMPOWER WOMEN": VAM has Girls in Crisis and a Micro-Finance program. "SUSTAINABILITY DEVELOPMENT": the VAM Girls Academy is being built incorporating environment friendly materials.

Additional Information

Please let us know if you would like copies of various publications and discussion papers mentioned above.

15. Vojenský a špitální Rád svatého Lazara Jeruzalémského - Bohemia

Special, 2012

Introduction

Military and Hospitaller Order of Saint Lazarus of Jerusalem (OSLJ) is a Catholic order of chivalry obliged from as early as the 12th century to perform charitable, humanitarian and spiritual activities worldwide. Contemporary Order is represented by its 50th Grand Master Jan Count Dobrzenský z Dobrzenicz and operates under temporal protection of Henri d'Orléans as Head of the Royal House of France. The Grand Priory of Bohemia was founded in 1937 by Karel Prince Schwarzenberg. Now, according to the laws of the Czech Republic, the Grand Priory is registered as a Non-governmental Organization and its fourth Grand Prior Jan Count Dobrzenský z Dobrzenicz is the sole representative of the Order in the Czech Republic.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The constant Hospitaller work and commitment of the Grandpriory Bohemia to furthering the defined goal of philanthropic work as per the needs of the region in question around the world has made the Grandpriory Bohemia as very efficient humanitarian association. Principles of the aims and purposes are transformed in the series of concret activities. Main focus is on promotion of activities and projects in human, economic, social and sanitary aid, including help to poor people, to disabled people. Our activities are strictly without any political or religious influence, with strong consideration of sustainable development, human, social and race equity. The projects and activities are implemented on local, national (Czech, Slovak...), regional - european and international - global level.

Significant changes in the organization

Memorandum with the Army of the Czech Republic in 2012. By signing the memorandum became the Order of St. Lazarus official partner of the Army of the Czech Republic in providing humanitarian actions. In 2014 it began the first phase of a unique project, "Apollinaire". This is the hospital help looking at the social and legal counseling, including strengthening financial and legal literacy Department of Addictology patients during their

treatment period aftercare, which can cover both the patients themselves and their families and loved ones.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Main focus is in the projects:

* Children Psychiatric Hospital at Oparany, Czech Republic

(organising of the concerts, clowns, reading to children with celebrity each month and support of the pottery workshop <http://www.dpnoparany.cz/o-nas/>)

* Hospic Banska Bystrica, Slovakia – contributing the better life for clients (material support, cultural activities) <http://www.dombm.sk/>

* Tight collaboration with Military peace keeping forces including United Nations forces - especially ISAF forces (to 2014) focusing on humanitarian actions and strengthening human values and collaboration with local civilians – official partner of the Czech Army for humanitarian cooperation. The order received high recognition of Czech ISAF contingent in Afghanistan.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Two members of OSLJ Bohemia were members of United Nation bodies, during period 2012 – 2016. Mr. Michael PARIK and Mr. Stanislav MIERTUS, both at UNIDO. Mr. PARIK to 2014, he died in the same year.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Cooperation with ISAF Czech contingent in Afghanistan for humanitarian projects.

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

The Order contributed to MDGs 1 and especially 2 for orphanages Afghan children in Bagram, Afghanistan. Commandery of Moravia brings material worth USD 300.

Additional Information

* Polish commendam was established June 2, 2012, under the administration of the Grandpriory Bohemia. This commendam supports Krosno Hospice and Hospice Bydgoszcz,

Poland. In cooperation with volunteers providing assistance to the elderly in their homes and provides material assistance to children from underprivileged families.

* In October 2013, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech republic granted accreditation to “Lazarians help” in educational program "medic recreational activities." Lazarians help is volunteer organization of the Order. Organized periodic first aid courses in 2012.

* Lazarians help worked as volunteers during floods at city Písek, Czech Republic. Also bought disinfectants for citizens.

* In 2014, the Order of significant financial help with the implementation of the reissue of "Endocrinology Practice" leading Czech endocrinologist proffesor Václav Hána. This book was welcomed by the general medical community and medical students.

* The Order organized a charity collection in favor of patients, the Department of Pediatric Oncology Pediatric University Hospital in Bratislava, Slovakia.

* Among the most recent projects include the collection via mobile donating. This support includes: Children Psychiatric Hospital at Opařany and Sarcoma Center at III. Surgical Clinic, University Hospital Motol, Czech Republic.