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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.



1. Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society

(Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Aims of the Organization: The Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society (IOPS) is the oldest international scientific non-governmental organization in the Russian Federation. Its statutory goals are to contribute to pilgrimage in the Holy Land, and to establish social, cultural, scientific, sacred, and other ties both with peoples of the Middle East and the Mediterranean Region and foreign international organizations, including United Nations bodies.

Significant Changes in the Organization: 2008: The final version of the IOPS Statute was adopted and established main goals of the Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society. There is also the English version of the Statute for the branches of the IOPS abroad. Today there are twelve IOPS subsidiaries in Belgorod, Vladimir, Nizhny Novgorod, Orel, Perm, Rostov-on-the-Don, Saint Petersburg, Tver (the Russian Federation), Bethlehem (Palestine), Jerusalem (state of Israel), Galilee (state of Israel), and in Bulgaria.

II. Contribution of the IOPS to the work of the United Nations

2006: attended the ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) second regular session held on July, 19-21 in Geneva, Switzerland.

2008: participated in the Palestine Investment Conference (PIC-Palestine) held on 21-23 May in Bethlehem (Palestine). The agenda of the PIC-Palestine was the improving of economic and social life standards in Palestine by attracting new investments to the region. A report that emphasized the importance of tourism and pilgrimage to the Palestine economy was presented.

Cooperation with the United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in field and/or at Headquarters

2005: (a) The IOPS together with the Hebrew University Scopus arranged in Jerusalem (state of Israel) conference «Jerusalem in the Russian Ecclesiastical Tradition» held on November, 2. The participants' reports were dedicated to the Holy Land and the phenomenon of the Russian Palestine; (b) The IOPS arranged in Bethlehem (Palestine) Russian language courses; (c) Due to the team-work between the IOPS and the Ambassador of Israel in the Russian Federation thirty Bethlehem students entered Russian institutions of higher education; (d) A representative and Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Egypt arranged a visit of a delegation of the Russian Writers Guild to Egypt. The delegation picked up information for a joint book "From Thebes of Egypt to Alexandria" devoted to the history of Orthodox Churches.

2007: 12-26 March, the IOPS assisted in organizing a photo exhibition "Following Pilgrims" by Orit Eshay, a famous photographer from Israel. The exhibition took place in the gallery of the Pilgrim's Centre of the Moscow Patriarchate.

2008: arranged the joint international youth project Galilee. Its main goal is to popularize educational activity of the IOPS and its historic mission in the Holy Land

among young people. In the context of the project youth trips to the Russian Federation and Israel were organized.

From **2005 till 2008**, seven books that illustrated the IOPS activities were edited by famous orientalists.

Activities in Support of Global Principles

2008: (a) 29 January, a representative, Archbishop of Berlin and Germany and Chairman of the Orthodox Palestine Society in the Holy Land, signed the declaration of intention consensus on the joint developing of Ard-ul-Habael land in Moscow. It is located on Mount of Olives slope in Jerusalem (state of Israel) and occupies the area of 9923 square meters. Negotiators also agreed on building an educational and cultural centre in the area; (b) On 21 May, Mahmoud Abbas, Head of Palestine provided Mr. Alexander V. Saltanov with documents on the handover of a land piece in the historical part of Bethlehem (Palestine) to the IOPS. According to the agreement, a comprehensive school is to be built there; (c) In June three land pieces were added to in Jericho (Palestine) to the property of the Russian Federation. The Chairman of the IOPS Sergei V. Stepashin said that centres of the Russian language and of the Russian culture were to be built there; (d) On 28 December, the Israeli government approved the final draft on the handover of the historical building of the Sergievskoe metochion to the IOPS of the Russian Federation. Now the IOPS is conducting restoration work on the site in order to save unique frescos of the metochion.

2. Libera: Associazioni, nomi e numeri contro le mafie

(Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Aims of the Organization: The “Libera: Associations, Names and Numbers against Mafias” (The Libera), was established on 25 March 1995 with the purpose of involving and supporting all those who are interested in the fight against mafias and organized crime. The Libera is presently a network of more than 1,200 associations, groups and schools, committed to build up organizational synergies between political and cultural actors who aim at promoting a culture of lawfulness. The law on the social use of the real estate confiscated to organized crime, the education on democratic lawfulness, the fight against corruption, the camps for anti-mafia education, the projects on work, development and anti-usury activities are some of Libera’s concrete commitments. The Libera’s educational project involves thousands of students every year in activities aimed at raising the awareness that living in an environment where legality pervades every aspect of their lives is worthwhile and by far the best choice. Another important activity of the Libera is to take care of relatives of the innocent mafia victims. 21 March, the first day of Spring, is the symbol of renewed hope and has become an occasion of meeting with relatives of mafia victims who in the Libera have found the force to heal and rebound from their drama, incorporating their mourning in a search for true and real justice, transforming the pain into a concrete, non-violent instrument of engagement and action for peace. The Libera Confiscated Real Estate deals with the social use properties confiscated to organized crime as established by Law 109/96, of which the Libera was the promoter. The law provides for the allocation of properties which belonged to mafia members to social workers, volunteers, cooperatives, municipal governments, and anyone capable to return them to the community through their own work, turning the properties into tangible symbols of the restoration of lawfulness. In 9 years the law has allowed more than 2,200 real estates (worth € 250,000,000) to be assigned to social activities.

The Libera Terra (Libera Land) is a project aimed at designing and planning the re-use of the lands confiscated from organized crime. The fruit received from the work on the lands confiscated to organized crime has led to the production of oil, pasta, wine, legumes and other organic products by cooperatives in Sicily, Calabria and Puglia, where mostly young people work; these products bear the brand “Libera Terra” — symbol of quality and lawfulness.

The Libera International aims at coordinating all those civil society and NGOs realities that are committed to pursuing objectives of justice, lawfulness and human rights defence at the international level. Organized crime has spread all over the world a long time ago; consequently, the fight against illegality must take place through an international network that needs to be set up as soon as possible. Human trafficking, drug trafficking, criminal organizations involved in industrial and toxic waste traffic, child labour exploitation, corruption and money laundering can only be effectively fought against through a worldwide network.

The Libera Information offers training seminars to young journalists in order to train them in investigation journalism; writes dossiers and coordinates the activities of

information agencies that intend to deal with education to legality and struggle against organized crime.

Significant Changes in the Organization: During the past four years the Libera has tripled its budget because of the progressive growth of its activities and proposals addressed to the various territorial contexts. Therefore, the territorial representation has grown and has been structured in coordination committees and garrisons. It is important to note a tremendous increase in opportunities of meeting, dialogue and collaboration with many public institutions such as local administrations, prefectures and Parliamentary Commissions. Moreover, the Libera has had an ongoing collaboration with EU institutions, especially with the Commission, Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). The EESC has recently awarded the Libera for its past work with the annual prize granted to “a civil organization that has made a substantial impact on the civil society movement” (EESC Prize for organised civil society). Among the most evident Libera’s transformations in the past four years, it is fundamental to indicate the considerable expansion of its international activity, especially at the European level. The Libera has promoted the constitution of FLARE — Freedom Legality And Rights in Europe, a network of around 50 social organizations from around 30 countries, officially born on 11 June 2008 that contributes to prevention of organized crime in Europe.

II. Contribution to the Work of the United Nations

The collaboration between the Libera and the United Nations has been existing since the establishment date of the organization, however it got stronger when the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) asked the Libera to contribute to the preparation of the United Nations Conference against Transnational Organized Crime that took place in Palermo (Italy) from 12 to 15 December 2000.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities:

Representatives from the Libera International branch attended in the following meetings and undertook the following activities: (a) 9-18 October 2006, Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in Vienna (Austria); (b) 9 October 2006, Vienna Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice meeting in Vienna (Austria); (c) 23-27 April 2007, 16th Session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Vienna (Austria). Within the activities foreseen during the 16th Session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Vienna (Austria), on 27 April 2007 the UNODC asked the Libera to organize the side event entitled “The Role of Civil Society in the Prevention of Organised Crime: Tools, Strategies, Practices.” The seminar focused on civil society’s tools, strategies and practices in preventing organized crime at local, national and international levels. It aimed to provide participants with an overview on projects and/or methodologies implemented at country and/or regional levels in order to prevent organized crime, enhance the capacity of people to react against the infiltration of crime into public institutions and social relationships, and strengthen civil society’s capacity to collaborate with governments, regional and international organizations in joint initiatives for policy analysis and action. Ms. Liliana Solano

from the Colombian NGO Justicia y Vida, Sarel Bujis from SAFERAFRICA, Mr. Minoru Shikita, Chairman of the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation (ACPF), and Mr. Tonio Dell'Olio, Director of the International Department of LIBERA participated in the seminar as speakers. The seminar was chaired by Ms. Monica Massari.

Cooperation with United Nations Bodies and/or Specialized Agencies in the Field and/or at Headquarters

During the past four years, the Libera has maintained close relationships with the UNODC (based in Vienna, Austria) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute - UNICRI (based in Turin, Italy). Thus, representatives of both organizations were invited to a number of international and national events organized by the Libera. In particular, on 9 June 2008, the Libera organized an international meeting Against New Global Mafias at the European Parliament in Brussels (Belgium), which was attended by around 700 persons and 40 associations, where the UNICRI Director, delivered a speech during the plenary session. The meeting was attended by representatives of Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, the UNODC (Vienna).

On 15 and 29 July 2008 in Turin (Italy) the Libera, in collaboration with the UNICRI, organized a training session for 25 Egyptian judges and their staff members on the role of civil society in the fight against organized crime and on how the law on the social use of real estate was confiscated by mafia works. During these sessions a representative was a speaker and FLARE President, actively participated in the meeting as well.

Activities in Line with the Millennium Development Goals

Researches and statistical surveys demonstrate that the presence and action of organized crime is a huge obstacle to social and economic development. Therefore, the Libera activities are a contribution to reach the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Libera is a part of the Italian coalition for the MDGs, the World Social Forum and the European Social Forum where it promoted seminars and workshops on the topic of the relationship between organized crime and development, such as the seminar For a Legal Development, to prevent and Fight Organized Crime at the European Social Forum in Athens (Greece) on 4 May 2006.

To conclude, it's important to highlight that some of the 1,200 organizations composing the Libera network, as organizations of international cooperation and development promotion, are undertaking important initiatives in the field and are making a great effort to reach the Millennium Development Goals.

3. Mexican Foundation for Family Planning

(Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

Founded in 1965, Mexican Foundation for Family Planning (Mexfam) has been a leader in family planning and sexual and reproductive health throughout Mexico and Latin America. Mexfam strives to provide quality and pioneering services in family planning, sexual and reproductive health, and sexual education with a special emphasis on reaching the country's most vulnerable populations: young people and the poor. To achieve these means, Mexfam carries out myriad activities through its four institutional programs: the Rural Community Program, the Urban Community Program, the Young People's Program and the Medical Services Centers Program.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

The Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) XVII International AIDS Conference. 3-8 August 2008, Mexico City, Mexico. Staff contributed technical assistance to the campaign "Does HIV look like me?"

UNAIDS XVII International AIDS Conference. 3-8 August 2008, Mexico City, Mexico. The Research Coordinator gave a presentation entitled "Evaluation of a preventive strategy for HIV/AIDS in Mexican male migrants."

Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP), UNFPA, Mexfam Regional Meeting. 30 July-1 August 2007, Managua, Nicaragua. "Expansion of Quality Adolescent SRH Information and Services Adequate for Underserved Young People" (RLA5R205). Under The UNFPA Latin-American and Caribbean Regional Project. MEXFAM provided technical assistance.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at headquarters

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)-sponsored "Programa de Pais" 2008-2012 (Project ongoing). Mexfam staff is consulting and contributing to two programs on sexual and reproductive health rights.

"Dance4Life." 2008, Mexico. Mexfam is co-sponsoring this HIV/AIDS in young people prevention project with UNFPA and Acciones Voluntarios sobre Educación (AVE de México) and is contributing to the planning and implementation of the program.

United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS). 2008, Mexico City, Mexico. The National Coordinator of Youth Program represented Mexfam at this meeting.

UNFPA and Sociedad Mexicana de Demografia (SOMEDE) conference, VIII and IX National Meetings for Research on Demographics in Mexico. 6-9 September 2006,

Guadalajara, Mexico and 8-11 October, Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, respectively. The Research Coordinator of Mexfam presented on various activities and research projects at Mexfam.

HIV Prevention for Girls and Young Women UNFPA Report Card. 2008. Staff contributed to the collection of information, final editing and fact-checking.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

MEXFAM contributed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the national level through the following actions:

Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women. Target 1. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015. Action: Number of female participants in classes and workshops covering sexual and reproductive health, domestic violence and gender equity = 252,584

Goal 4. Reduce child mortality. Target 1. Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate. Actions: (a) Children under 5 receiving healthcare services = 550,198; (b) Number of babies receiving newborn screening tests = 2,394

Goal 5. Improve maternal health. Target 1. Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio. Actions: (a) Births attended: 5,850; (b) Caesarean sections performed = 3,244; (c) Women receiving prenatal care = 221,555; (d) Women receiving medical help for incomplete abortions = 4,719. **Target 2. Achieve universal access to reproductive health. Actions:** (a) Individuals receiving family planning services = 460,764; (b) Contraceptive methods dispensed = 6,921,864; (c) Provision of sexual and reproductive health services = 1,214,763; (d) Abortions performed (under the newly- approved law for Mexico City in 2007) = 294; (e) Individuals receiving sexual and reproductive health counselling = 569,319

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Target 1. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS. Actions: (a) Events held for HIV/AIDS education campaign = 464; (b) Youth participants in HIV/AIDS classes and workshops = 81,700. **Target 2. Achieve universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it. Actions:** (a) HIV tests performed = 8,012; (b) Number of individuals receiving pre- and post- HIV test counselling = 37,166. **Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases (a) Provision of basic medical care = 1,858,211**

Goal 7. Ensure environmental sustainability. Target 3. Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Participants in workshops and programs on sanitation and hygiene = 622,244

Activities in Support of Global Principles: Mexfam signed the UN Global Compact in 2005 and the Global Principles are evident in its constitution. For example, the Human Rights Principle is reflected in Mexfam's bylaws, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of HIV status, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity and age. Mexfam also promotes human rights for the populations it serves by providing and fighting for access to information and services in sexual and reproductive health.

4. Turkish Foundation for Children in Need of Protection

(Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Aims of the Organization: The Turkish Foundation for Children in Need of Protection (TKMCV) is a non-governmental organization established in 1979 with the aim of providing shelter, protection and education for children in need in Turkey. The NGO derives its strength from the successful application of the 'Children Village' model of SOS Kinderdorf International. 'Bolluca Children Village' sets an example as the first and only children village in Turkey. 'Social services for care and protection of children' in Turkey now uses 'the village' as a model for their own program. Currently the NGO provides financial and psychological support to 100 children living full time in 'Bolluca Children village'. Children are accommodated in the village until they become independent and productive members of their communities.

Changes in the Organization: Change in Constitution: The Turkish Foundation for Children in Need of Protection (TKMCV) took the initiative to bring together several other non-governmental organizations from Istanbul and Ankara, and government officials in order to discuss an amendment to article 2828-4e of the constitution regarding protection of children in need. An amendment, approved by Legal authorities here on 5 July 2005, allows TKMCV and other non-governmental organizations to take full responsibility of children in need in cooperation with the government.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities:

The President of the TKMCV attended the following meetings:

2005: Attended the ECOSOC Committee on non-governmental organizations during the sessions between 5 and 18 January, New York.

2007: Received the 'Protection of children's rights' award by Children's Summit for both the organization's work and its support in the summit since 1997, 21st November, Istanbul.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field or Headquarters

The president of the TKMCV attended 'SU iletişim II. Tematik KSS Zirvesi' on 25 April 2007, in Istanbul, Turkey together with Edmond McLoughney of UNICEF, as a guest speaker to raise awareness on the issue of protection of children in need. Representatives from major multinationals and business corporations in Turkey were informed about the current and future needs of children and ways they can support the cause.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

The organization contributed to the MDGs mainly in Istanbul, central and northern Anatolian cities such as Ankara, Yozgat, and Samsun, Ordu, respectively.

Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education. Target: Ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. ACTIONS: (a) School bags with school supplies distributed: 1872; (b) School uniforms and winter clothes provided for children in need: 4800; (c) Books for libraries, primary to secondary: 4000; (d) Library built in a primary school: 1; (e) Students provided foreign language education: 27; (f) Students provided modern art education: 24; (g) Students provided chess education: 30; (h) Children aided for their enrolment in scout camps: 250

The organization has also opened a new youth house for boys on a 1.002 m2 land which was donated by the family of the late Ali Rıza Carmikli in Buyukcekmece, Mimaroba. Twenty young boys all which are either working or university students accommodate in the house under the observation of 2 youth leaders. In year 2008, the organization has endeavoured to a ten year development plan to open five new children villages around Turkey including Urla-İzmir and Antalya. The organization is rigorously searching for sponsors and donations to implement the program.

5. Women in Dialogue (WinD)

(Special; 1985)

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization: The Women in Dialogue (WinD) is an educational charity established in the UK to advance the education of the public through research into race and community relations with particular reference to women, and by the dissemination of such research. The organisation focuses on making visible information about women as unwaged carers in the family, the community and on the land, recognising race and community relations as a major part of women's unwaged caring work. The WinD runs the Crossroads Women's Centre in London used by women of different ethnic and social backgrounds and as a base for women-led self-help services and organizations; carries out research; maintains a reference library; produces fact sheets, publications and audio-visual materials; hosts/organises conferences, meetings, seminars, workshops, film-shows, exhibitions. The WinD in the US runs women's centres in Los Angeles, Philadelphia and San Francisco.

Significant changes in the organization: The impact of new activities established at the Women's Centre in London, United Kingdom, in the previous reporting period, is seen in changing perceptions and increasing public awareness of various issues affecting vulnerable women. Women in the self-help All African Women's Group who seek asylum increased their confidence and public speaking skills. Women with disabilities met regularly, and their independent activities highlighted their needs and situations. Women Against Rape were invited to hold meetings with senior members of the criminal justice system raising the issues of rape on their agendas. These considerable achievements increased the status and publicity for the centre and more women came to volunteer. The WinD received funding to organize a theatre project with schools that helped increase understanding of the situations of women seeking asylum and their children. The project culminated in performances at the internationally acclaimed Tricycle Theatre in June 2007. Internationally, women in our network in Guyana started their Crossroads Women's Centre.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: 14-16 September 2005: Attended World Summit High-Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th Session of United Nations General Assembly, United Nations Headquarters, New York. Purpose: representatives took notes to report back to our local women centres on issues particularly relevant to grassroots women as reported by Heads of State.

18-22 September 2006: Attended World Summit High-Level Plenary Meeting of the 61st Session of UN General Assembly, UN Headquarters, New York. Purpose: as above.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

Throughout the 2005-2008 period the WinD drew on decisions in the Beijing Platform for Action 1995 regarding measuring and valuing unremunerated work in national accounts, and researched and provided information on how these decisions have subsequently been implemented at government, NGO and grassroots level. In the UK, the WinD was a consultant to Red Thread in Guyana on designing and analysing a time-use survey undertaken by its grassroots members (2005), a first for Guyana which consequently caught the interest of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. In the US, the WinD was a fiscal sponsor for a community gathering in October 2006 at the Eastside Café in Los Angeles focused on the unwaged work of low-income women and other caregivers from diverse communities in rebuilding lives and communities devastated by natural or economic disasters. The WinD supported fundraising for Every Mother is a Working Mother Network to attend the US Social Forum (25 June-1 July 2007) to call attention to the urgency of recognizing the economic and social value of unwaged work in order to support women's efforts to sustain life and dignity despite poverty. The WinD contributed to the planning of the international women's conference, "Women Worldwide Define Security: Working Against War and Poverty for Peace and Justice" (Interfaith Center, New York, 16 October 2006), with Dr. Azza Karam, Senior Policy Research Advisor, United Nations Development Program UNDP (New York) on the panel. In January 2008, refugee women and their advocates from the centre in London presented testimony to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The WinD facilitated the fundraising efforts of grassroots groups to support their self-help activities including income generation and food security as follows: (a) In the United Kingdom: Hosted a report-back and fundraising meeting in London on 25 June 2005 with a representative of Chhattisgarh Women's Organisation (Nawa Chhattisgarh Mahila Samiti), India, a rural self-help group of Dalit and Tribal women, to learn about their work rebuilding grain banks, livelihoods and communities after floods, organising farming co-operatives and micro-credit schemes. In 2005 and 2006 we wrote letters to the Ugandan Minister for Water and to the Uganda High Commission in London concerning the government's commitment to deepen 16 boreholes in the Kaabong area, the revival of which promise would enable women to access clean water instead of walking long and dangerous distances to dig for muddy water in a dried river bed. The WinD provided information on resources available to destitute and low-income women in the UK — hardship grants, housing, free meals etc.; updated our resource sheet of bodies which give funds or provide technical assistance to grassroots groups in countries of the South and North, and provided information on the sums required to implement the Millennium Goals and ensure clean water, food security, health care and literacy — the basic needs of everyone — can be met.

In the United States of America: Following Hurricane Katrina, the WinD in San Francisco provided information between September 2005 and April 2006 on the economic value of women's unwaged labour to the Hurricane Evacuees Council of the Bay Area, the Women's Caucus of the People's Hurricane Relief & Oversight

Coalition and the Women's Reconstruction Network for their work in alleviating poverty and hunger resulting from the disaster. It sponsored a discussion on 8 March 2007 at the women's centre, San Francisco, on home health care services for low-income elders and people with disabilities. In Los Angeles, it hosted forums and fundraising events on 16 June 2005 and 22 July 2006 in support of grassroots women organizing against poverty and hunger in the poorest urban and rural communities in Haiti.

Goal 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women. The WinD's centres provided office and meeting space, access to communications and technology, and training for women's organizations working on a range of issues to promote women's empowerment, including: anti-racism, asylum from rape and persecution, breastfeeding, child custody, disability, discrimination against lesbian women, homelessness, immigration, pay equity, payment for caring work, prostitution, impact of war and military spending, sexual violence and welfare reform. We arranged speakers to colleges, universities, community events etc.

In the UK. Events included: a reception in March 2005 for women from Banmujer (Women's Development Bank), which helps women set up co-operatives and other community initiatives in Venezuela; a meeting on 4 December 2005 for the founder of Women's Will Association in Iraq to report on the hidden consequences of the war for women and children; a workshop in March 2006 with three Palestinian women from Abu Dis in Palestine describing daily life for women; meetings in October 2006 with community organizers from the Land Committee and the Madres del Barrio (Neighbourhood Mothers) project in Venezuela, describing women's problems and solutions, and in November 2006 a pay equity workshop with the Discrimination Law Team of leading UK solicitors.

In the United States of America: Provided technical support and information (2007-2008) to a domestic violence victim, who won a precedent setting legal case in New Jersey — domestic violence victims who change their names to protect their identities and whereabouts have the right to have that change remain confidential. Previously they had to make the change public, exposing them to danger. WinD also circulated statistics on rape within the military.

6. World Trade Centers Association

(Special; 1977)

I. Introduction

The mission of the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) is to support the establishment and successful operation of individual World Trade Centers (WTCs) as part of a worldwide alliance which enhances peace, stability, world trade and development, leading to economic growth. Through the services it provides to its members, the WTCA works to increase the power and reach of the trade development activities each WTC undertakes. Our policy of reciprocity fosters a culture of cooperation among the membership such that each benefits from the others' strengths. There are over 325 WTCs in 92 countries serving more than 1,000,000 companies. This has resulted in billions of dollars in trade flows annually facilitated by WTCs. WTCs provide training, market research, source components and raw materials, mentor companies new to trade, lead and receive trade missions, host and manage trade shows. Their facilities bring together the practitioners of international trade as well as the businesses and governmental authorities that support and regulate these activities.

In support of its mission the WTCA: (a) Operates as a non-profit, non-political, nongovernmental global organization; (b) Is committed to fostering entrepreneurship and enhancing business opportunities for its members; (c) Promotes expanding trade and economic prosperity; (d) Implements innovative solutions; (e) Is dedicated to quality; (f) Is an open, multicultural organization; (g) Promotes trade as the single most effective means to achieve peace and stability.

Expanded Areas of Activities: During this quadrennial reporting period the WTCA has increased its attention on recruiting members from China, Latin America and Africa. This enhanced focus is resulting in new WTC projects which are now beginning their trade development work. There has also been increased effort on raising public awareness that trade can foster peace and stability. The WTCA Action Committee on Peace and Stability Through Trade was established to provide the membership a forum in which to cooperate on projects. A new non-profit subsidiary was created and funded, The WTCA Foundation, to fund projects to develop trade as a means to foster peace and stability.

II. Contribution of the Organization to the work of the United Nations

Early in this reporting period the WTCA Representative to the United Nations in New York, Mr. Richard Dandrea, began attending weekly NGO briefings held at United Nations Headquarters. In addition the WTCA Representative to the United Nations in Geneva, Mr. Philippe Doubre, participated in numerous conferences and other events. In June of 2007, representatives of the WTCA headquarters visited the offices of the following United Nations Agencies in Geneva to explore means of cooperation:

International Trade Center (ITC): (June 2007) Meeting toward mounting cooperative projects for capacity building in trade development, and the utilization

of WTCs as a means of finding buyers for ITC export development efforts in LDCs. A representative subsequently invited to speak at the WTCA General Assembly in Dubai.

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): (June 2007) Meeting for Standards for electronic commerce were discussed as well as the WTCA's efforts in developing an electronic trade finance system, TradeCard™. It was proposed that an information session on the work of UNECE be held at the next World Trade Centers Association European Regional Meeting.

United Nations Commission on Trade and Development (UNCTAD): (June 2007) to update on current projects and explore cooperative efforts between UNCTAD and the WTCA.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO): (June 2007) to discuss strategies to raise awareness among WTCs of the opportunities arising from changes in intellectual property regulation and enforcement.

April 2008, the WTCA mounted its **Second International Conference on Peace and Stability Through Trade** at the Dag Hammarskjöld Library Auditorium at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The event was organized with the assistance and support of Ambassador to the United Nations from the Dominican Republic. It was attended by numerous Ambassadors, World Trade Center directors, representatives of other NGOs and the press. Throughout the period the WTCA representative in Geneva participated in numerous World Trade Organization (WTO) and UNCTAD conferences and working sessions.

Activities in support of the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. As an organization whose members are devoted to increasing prosperity in their respective regions, the WTCA has done much in the way of job creation through expansion of trade. By encouraging WTCs to work together and devoting special focus on developing regions, the WTCA helps raise the standard of living and level of education among the constituencies of its membership.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. Over a period of several years the WTCA has supported the efforts of WTC Kabul in the education of women in Afghanistan. The October 2008 WTCA General Assembly held in Dubai had as its theme: "Women Leaders in International Business." Speakers included: Minister for Foreign Trade, United Arab Emirates; founder of World Organization for Mutual Afghan Network (WOMAN), Afghan Women Business Association (AWBA), and Afghan Women Business Federation (AWBF); Vice Chair of the WTCA Board of Directors, Honorary Chair of China Women's Chamber of Commerce, Shanghai Female Enterprises Association, Shanghai Women's Engineer Association.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability. At WTCA events throughout the 2005-2008 period the (for example: General Assembly October 2006, Member Seminar December 2007 and December 2008, European Regional Meeting May 2008) WTCA has included programming promoting "green building" technologies to the membership. Numerous WTCs around the world are driving initiatives to support sustainable development. For example: in 2006 WTC Malmo in conjunction with WTC Cologne organized a trade mission promoting "green building" technologies resulting in over \$1,000,000 in orders for environmentally friendly

construction materials. WTCs in Stockholm and Helsinki cooperated on a three day Regional Meeting of WTC managers exploring “green building” technologies. WTC Milwaukee is working with the Milwaukee Water Council (A UNESCO Category II Centre) to promote adoption of water technologies. There are further examples.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development. The WTCA has strengthened its efforts to raise public awareness of the value of international trade activity in promoting and maintaining peace. Several conferences on the topic, in April 2007 in Oslo, May 2008 in San Diego, and April 2008 in New York (as mentioned above), focused attention on the issue. The President of the WTCA participated in September 2008 in the Oslo Peace Summit, speaking on “peace and stability through trade” to a global audience. Many new WTCs in China, Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America were established during the period. We have also worked with several organizations of indigenous people to establish WTCs to serve their communities. In Afghanistan trans-tribal meetings, reconciliation, capacity building and job creation have been supported by WTC Kabul’s work with the Afghan Institute for Peace and Justice.

While there has been much activity in support of United Nations objectives throughout the reporting period The WTCA has not kept records which categorize these activities as such. In the next reporting period it is expected that improved record keeping will portray the full scope of the WTCA’s activity.
