



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2006/50
24 January 2006

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sixty-second session
Item 11 (a) of the provisional agenda

**CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE QUESTIONS OF:
TORTURE AND DETENTION**

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Note of the Secretary-General

Summary

In accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/39, the present note provides updated information on the activities of the Fund since the publication of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/60/215) on 10 August 2005. It also describes the financial needs of the Fund for 2006 and 2007.

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I. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A. Renewal of the Board

1. On 17 August 2005, the Secretary-General appointed the following members to the Board of Trustees of the Fund for a three-year term renewable once: Mr. Krassimir Kanev (Bulgaria), Ms. Sonia Picado (Costa Rica), Ms. Savitri Goonesekere (Sri Lanka), Mr. Joseph Oloka-Onyango (Uganda), and Mr. Derrick Pounder (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). The Board will hold its twenty-fifth session from 5 to 11 April 2006. The recommendations of the Board adopted by the Secretary-General will be available in the report of the Secretary-General to the sixty-first session of the General Assembly.

B. Change in the funding cycle

2. At its twenty-fourth session, the Board of Trustees decided to implement recommendation 10 of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) following its evaluation of the Fund (E/CN.4/2005/55), whereby “support from the Fund should be for a *future* period, rather than one that has largely passed and the funding cycle should be changed accordingly”. Consequently, the Board recommended that the implementation period for the grants awarded for 2005 should be extended until 30 June 2006. In this regard, organizations received payment in two instalments: the first instalment to cover the year 2005; and the second the first six months of 2006. At its next session, the Board will also make recommendations for grants for an 18-month period to cover the second semester of 2006 and the year 2007. Thereafter, the Board will meet in October to allocate grants for the following year.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE OFFICE OF INTERNAL OVERSIGHT SERVICES

3. The implementation of the recommendations of the OIOS, following its evaluation of the Fund, is still ongoing. Their status is reviewed by the OIOS every six months. Since the publication of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, which provided information on the measures taken by the secretariat of the Fund to implement the recommendations, 7 out of the 19 recommendations that remain open have been updated. For instance, as indicated above, the Secretary-General has appointed a new Board of Trustees, giving particular attention to gender balance and diversity of professional experience and expertise. In addition, as recommended by the OIOS, the mandate of the new members is limited to a three-year period renewable only once. With regard to increased staffing, a staff member with a strong management and fund-raising background was recruited in September 2005, as well as an information and technology programmer who is currently developing a grants management system. It is expected that a prototype will be available to be shown to the Board of Trustees at its twenty-fifth session, in April 2006.

4. A grant has been provided to the University of Bern to prepare the book to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fund and work is well under way. The book will be launched on 26 June 2006, International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. New public information materials and a new website will be derived from the book and will be available by the end of 2006.

5. Other recommendations requiring policy decisions by the Board of Trustees, such as a clearer definition of family members of torture victims as beneficiaries of the Fund, multi-year project approval and a more strategic funding formula, will be put to the Board at its next session. Concept papers are being prepared by the secretariat on the different topics to be discussed.

III. TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION

A. Estimated needs for 2006/2007

6. On the basis of the requests received for 2005 (amounting to US\$ 14.1 million), the Board estimated that at least US\$ 14 million would be needed at its next session if it were to cover all new requests envisaged for a 12-month period. Taking into account the fact that grants will need to cover an 18-month period, from July 2006 through to December 2007, an additional amount of US\$ 7 million would consequently be needed to fully meet all admissible requests during the period indicated.

B. Contributions received

7. The following contributions were recorded since the publication of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly.

Donor	Contribution Number	Amount in US\$	Date recorded	
Andorra	12	19 141	24 June 2005	
Argentina	14	7 000	6 September 2005	
Armenia	1	1 096	26 July 2005	Unearmarked
Austria	22	39 866	10 August 2005	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	2 000	19 October 2005	
Canada	23	50 403	18 November 2005	
Costa Rica	3	5 970	24 October 2005	Unearmarked
Cyprus	17	11 082	25 August 2005	Unearmarked
Finland	23	178 048	5 September 2005	
Greece	22	24 038	14 October 2005	
Luxembourg	21	20 468	16 November 2005	
The Netherlands	25	1 000 000	5 August 2005	
The Philippines	7	4 319	26 September 2005	
Slovenia	2	3 000	20 July 2005	
Slovenia	3	7 000	20 July 2005	
Turkey	4	9 939	2 June 2005	
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	18	179 020	12 August 2005	
Japanese Association of Diet Members for Cooperation with United Nations Human Rights Activities	1	9 011	17 August 2005	
Total		1 571 401		

IV. HOW TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

8. Contributions to the Fund should always be marked as follows: “payee: United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, account CH”. Payments may be made either by bank transfer: (a) in United States dollars or in other currencies to “United Nations Geneva General Fund”, account No. 485001802, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, New York, NY 10004, United States of America (Swift code: CHASUS33, ABA 021000021); (b) in euros to “United Nations Office at Geneva”, account No. 23961901, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, London, PO Box 440, Wollgate House, Coleman Street, London, United Kingdom (Swift code: CHAS GB 2L; Sorting Code: 60-92-42; IBAN: GB25 CHAS 6092 4223 9619 01); (c) in pounds sterling to “United Nations Office at Geneva”, account No. 23961903, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, London, P.O. Box 440, Wollgate House, Coleman Street, London, United Kingdom (Swift code: CHAS GB 2L; Sorting Code: 60-92-42; IBAN: GB68 CHAS 6092 4223 9619 03); (d) in Swiss francs to “United Nations Geneva General Fund”, account No. 240-C0590160.0, UBS, rue du Rhône 8, Geneva 2, Switzerland (Swift code: UBSWCHZH12A; Bank clearing code: 240; IBAN: CH92 0024 0240 CO590160 0); (d) other than above currency “United Nations Geneva General Fund”, account No. 240-C0590160.1, UBS, rue du Rhône 8, Geneva 2, Switzerland (Swift code: UBSWCHZH12A; Bank clearing code: 240; IBAN: CH65 0024 0240 CO590160 1); (e) or by cheque payable to “United Nations” addressed to: Trésorerie, Nations Unies, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. Donors are requested to inform the secretariat of the Fund and the Resource Mobilization Unit when a payment has been made (a copy of the bank transfer order or of the cheque would be appreciated) to facilitate effective follow-up on the official recording procedure and preparation of the Secretary-General’s reports.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

9. **Pursuant to the appeals by the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Board of Trustees of the Fund, donors are invited to pay their contributions to the Fund before March 2006 to enable the Board to take them into account at its twenty-fifth session, in April 2006.**
10. **The General Assembly, the Commission and the Board have also urged regular donors to increase their contributions if possible in order to provide the Board with the resources to meet the growing needs of torture victims and the members of their families.**
11. **The Board strongly encourages Governments that have not yet contributed to the Fund to do so for the first time, preferably before March 2006.**
