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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. UNESCO Centre of Catalonia

Special, 2007

Introduction

There have been no changes.

Aims and purposes of the organization

There have been no changes.

Significant changes in the organization

The strategic plan 2010-2013 identifies four priority areas of work (sustainable development, social cohesion, national identity and promoting democracy), education being a transversal priority area of concern.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Since 1998, the Centre has translated the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) *Human Development Report* into Catalan.

The Centre has published pedagogical materials on water and development, based on the *Human Development Report 2006*, and on development and climate change (2009 and 2010), based on the *Human Development Report 2007*.

The Centre has organized the following programmes:

- Symposium on diversity in the framework of intercultural living, citizenship and perceptions of security to mark International Migrants Day (2009)
- Round table, “Review of the International Year of Biodiversity: have the objectives been achieved?”, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) focal point for biodiversity and the environment.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

- Collaboration with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance has been particularly strong within the context of the follow-up of the expert seminar on the defamation of religions that the Centre hosted in Barcelona in 2005 at the request of the Special Rapporteur
- Participated in the Commission on the Status of Women in New York and presented a statement during the fifth session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (2007)
- Participated in the 60th annual Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations dedicated to climate change
- On 28 May 2008, the statement entitled “Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development”, was signed by several NGOs, including the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia (UNESCOCAT), and presented within the framework of the eighth session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

- Collaborated with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Education by replying to the questionnaire on the right to education of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (2010)
- Participated in the first strategic meeting on intercultural dialogue and cooperation in the Mediterranean, organized by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held in Malta on 8 and 9 November 2010.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

- UNESCOCAT published *Human Rights and Prisons — A Pocket Book of International Human Rights Standards for Prison Officials*, in Catalan
- To mark International Women's Day, UNESCOCAT published *Passport to Equality*
- An interactive dialogue session between the United Nations Special Rapporteur on racism and municipal councillors in Catalonia was held at the UNESCOCAT headquarters (July 2008)
- Published in Catalan *Human Rights Standards and Practice for the Police: Expanded Pocket Book on Human Rights for the Police* (November 2008)
- At the request of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, UNESCOCAT and Kreddha organized a meeting of experts (October 2009)
- In response to the bombings in the Gaza Strip, which led to the destruction of schools, UNESCOCAT initiated the "Education in Gaza, a seed for peace" campaign to support the educational system. UNESCOCAT collected €40,000 that were transferred to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East to contribute to the reconstruction of six Agency schools affected by the bombings (January 2009)
- UNESCOCAT hosted the first joint UNESCO/United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) meeting for the evaluation of the UNESCO/UN-Habitat toolkit "Urban policies and innovative practices for migrants: inclusive cities for all" (2009)
- UNESCOCAT took part in the joint UNESCO/UN-Habitat meeting on the same topic at the Fifth World Urban Forum (Rio de Janeiro, 2010)
- UNESCOCAT attended the conference "Are we doing it right?", to assess the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, organized by the United Nations University (2010).

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

Together with other Catalan organizations with links to the United Nations, the UNESCO Centre of Catalonia supported the awareness-raising campaign for the Millennium Goals, "Make noise for MDGs" (September 2010). The volume, which is currently being translated into Spanish, contains articles by experts that identify the ways in which sacred texts, religious ethics and teachings guide and stimulate believers to pursue the realization of the Goals.

2. Water Environment Federation

Special, 1995

Introduction

The Water Environment Federation is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization located in Alexandria, Virginia, United States of America, and governed by an 18-member Board of Trustees that acts on behalf of its 36,000 members worldwide. Founded in 1928, the Federation provides technical education, training and information to water professionals and the public.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Water Environment Federation supports the preservation and enhancement of the global water environment through the collective knowledge of its membership. Together, the Federation and its members:

- Research and publish the latest information on water quality science and engineering
- Educate the public and policymakers about water quality issues
- Provide technical expertise and training
- Provide input on regulations and legislation.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Water Environment Federation contribution to the work of the United Nations aims to promote worldwide access to adequate sanitation and sufficient quantities of clean, safe water. The Federation fosters awareness annually through its World Water Monitoring Day programme. In 2010, the inaugural World Water Monitoring Day “Water Champion” awards were announced on the Day. Water Environment Federation partnerships, such as the Mega-City Water Forum (14-16 May 2007) and the International Water Forum (4-6 June 2008) allowed the Federation to examine how NGOs and civil society organizations can work together to meet Millennium Development Goal 7.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

During 2007-2010, the Water Environment Federation International Programme representatives attended Economic and Social Council meetings held at United Nations Headquarters.

- 2007: Representatives attended the Economic and Social Council Commission on Sustainable Development (30 April-11 May)
- 2007: Representatives attended the 60th annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference, “Climate change: how it impacts us all” (5-7 September)

- 2010: Representatives attended meetings of the Economic and Social Council (14-15 June and 6-8 July) and the Millennium Development Goal Summit
- 2010: Representatives attended the meeting of the Economic and Social Council: “Regional cooperation in accelerating progress towards the MDGs in Africa” (20-22 September).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

At the invitation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Water Environment Federation staff participated in the 2008 UNEP Global Ministerial Environment Forum on globalization and the environment, held in Monaco from 20 to 22 February. While the Federation has not been consistently active in UNEP proceedings, it remains supportive of UNEP technical resources and educational materials by making information accessible through its website. Other activities include the following: Water Environment Federation served as an institutional partner for the International Water Forum, organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and CIFAL Atlanta, held in Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America, from 4 to 6 June 2008; representatives participated in discussions of the eighth meeting of the Bureau of the Preparatory Process, for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, on 19 November 2010.

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

Many Water Environment Federation initiatives support Millennium Development Goal 7 (ensure environmental sustainability). During 2007-2010, the Federation:

- Promoted the 2008 International Year of Sanitation through the Federation’s World Water Monitoring Day programme. By partnering with Proctor & Gamble, the Federation distributed 12,000 water monitoring kits, with bars of biodegradable soap and a hand washing fact sheet to people in over 50 countries as part of the programme’s “Wash your hands, save a life” campaign
- Supported, through educational and promotional activities, member involvement and cash/in-kind contributions to such organizations as Water for People, and Engineers without Borders, that improve access to water and sanitation services
- Attended the Nestlé Creating Shared Value Forum, held in New York on 27 and 28 April 2009, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, to discuss nutrition, water and rural development issues
- Organized Disinfection 2009: Addressing the Full Spectrum of Global Disinfection Challenges, an international conference for public health scientists and engineers, held in Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America, from 28 February to 3 March. Such topics as water purification, improved hygiene and sanitation, and the health impacts of these measures were discussed
- Educated water scientists and engineers on effective practices to meet global water and sanitation challenges at the Water Environment Federation annual conference, which attracts up to 20,000 professionals each year.

3. Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources

Special, 1995

Introduction

No changes.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources is a publicly supported, non-profit organization which brings environmental, spiritual and indigenous leaders together with policymakers for the purpose of creating a sustainable future for generations to come. The purpose of the Center is to facilitate a bridging of ancient wisdom with contemporary life. The Center is committed to creating forums for the dissemination of information on Earth awareness, indigenous cultures and interfaith dialogue for planetary transformation (www.wittenbergcenter.org).

Significant changes in the organization

The Wittenberg Center has increased its involvement in the objectives of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and in building interfaith partnerships.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Wittenberg Center is deeply involved with promoting United Nations work on common values, including the Millennium Development Goals. From 2008 to 2010, its representatives served on the Executive Committee of the Committee on Spirituality Values and Global Concerns of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations. Areas of focus have included the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010); gender equality; the Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking; Millennium Development Goals; climate and environment; human rights; and education. Some outreach programmes organized by the Committee on Spirituality Values and Global Concerns include: from 20 to 24 October 2008, “The Spirit of the United Nations: our commitment to making the Universal Declaration of Human Rights come alive”, including “The Spirit of the United Nations Award Ceremony”, Dag Hammarskjöld Auditorium; 22 October, presentation at the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) “The United Nations: bridging the historical divides for a new world renaissance”; October 2009, “The Spirit of the United Nations: week of spirituality values and global concerns”; “Global peace through reconciliation”; October 2010, “Universal harmony through rapprochement”, celebrating the 2010 International Year of the Rapprochement of Cultures (for more information see www.csvgc-ny.org).

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

A primary focus of the Wittenberg Center is increasing the participation of traditional indigenous people in the United Nations system. The Center representative has served as the Chair of the NGO Committee on the United Nations International Decade of the World’s Indigenous Peoples from 2006 to 2011. Activities include annual reports to the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, monthly meetings at United Nations Headquarters, outreach to

indigenous communities, including website development (www.ngo-ip.org), and participation in and coordination with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at the United Nations. The chief representative of the Center served on the coordinating committee for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples at United Nations Headquarters on 9 August 2008, 2009 and 2010. The 2010 event included an indigenous welcome and the participation of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Other projects include hosting the opening of the event, "Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity", in April 2010, during the ninth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, held at United Nations Headquarters. The Wittenberg Center attended and sponsored indigenous elders to the Permanent Forum from 2007 to 2010.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The representative organized briefings from staff members of the Permanent Forum secretariat, including the Climate Change Conference in February 2010, the Rights of Mother Earth, held in New York on 17 June 2010, and Free Prior and Informed Consent on 15 July 2010.

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

The Center has focused on Millennium Development Goal 7, target 9: "Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources".

Additional information

Other United Nations committees in which representatives of the Center participated: the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations; the Values Caucus at the United Nations and the United Religious Initiative at the United Nations (URI)-United Nations working group; community outreach programmes organized by the Wittenberg Center: 21 June 2010, interfaith celebration of world peace and prayer day; "Honoring Mother Earth", Woodstock, New York.

4. Women in Europe for a Common Future

Special, 2003

Introduction

Women in Europe for a Common Future is an international network of over 100 women's, environmental and health organizations that implement projects in 40 countries.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Women in Europe for a Common Future aims at achieving a healthy environment for all by 2020 in four thematic areas: safe chemicals and waste; safe water and sanitation; safe energy and climate change; and safe food production and sustainable rural development.

Significant changes in the organization

The international impact of Women in Europe for a Common Future has grown, with a number of international policy- and capacity-building programmes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Women in Europe for a Common Future contributes to the work of the United Nations on global governance of environment, health, sustainable development, poverty reduction, women's equality and human rights.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Women in Europe for a Common Future took part in the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) "Environment for Europe" conference, held in Belgrade. Women's participation and experience are central to environmental management and sustainable development. UNEP and Women in Europe for a Common Future organized a side event, "Financing climate change from a gender and rights perspective", in 2008, during the special session of the UNEP Governing Council held in Monaco. At the UNEP Governing Council meeting, held in Nairobi in 2009, Women in Europe for a Common Future chaired the Women's Major Group, organized a demonstration at the main stairs to the conference rooms in the UNEP headquarters to call on delegates to the meeting to keep nuclear power out of the clean development mechanism and other United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change mechanisms. The Women's Caucus, co-chaired by Women in Europe for a Common Future, presented its message to the Ministers of Environment attending the UNEP Governing Council and to the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, held in Bali in 2010; Women in Europe for a Common Future co-chaired the women's major group at the eighteenth session in New York in 2010, and organized two side events on mining and chemicals during the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Women in Europe for a Common Future Executive Director was a panellist at the UNEP Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum 2010, presented the work of the Women in Europe for a Common Future network on creating green jobs with community-based renewable energy projects, and organized two side events during the UNEP Governing Council meeting, addressing environmental health and the harm from continuous use of chrysotile asbestos and harmful substances in products for children. Women in Europe for a Common Future and the Pesticide Action Network attended the 6th meeting of the Chemicals Review Committee of the Rotterdam Convention 2010 as NGO observers. The organization focused on vulnerable groups and small-scale water supply and sanitation at the 2nd meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health, under the transboundary water convention, held in Bucharest. In 2010 Women in Europe for a Common Future participated in the ECE Committee on Environmental Policy to discuss particular preparations for the Environment for Europe ministerial conference, held in Astana in 2011. Women in Europe for a Common Future organized a delegation of representatives of women's organizations and environmental organizations from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to take part in the fourteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Poznan, Poland, in 2008, in the fifteenth session, held in Bonn, Germany, and in Copenhagen in 2009, co-organizing six side events and providing interventions for the negotiation sessions, as well as in the preparatory meeting, held in Bonn in 2009. Women in

Europe for a Common Future also was a speaker at the working group meeting on article 6, held in Stockholm. Women in Europe for a Common Future organized a delegation of representatives of women's organizations and environmental organizations from Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to take part in the sixteenth session, held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2010, interventions for the negotiation sessions, as well as in the preparatory meeting, held in Bonn in 2010.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Women in Europe for a Common Future implements a Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management quick-start project on chemical safety; helped to create the women and gender constituency of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; co-chairs the constituency since 2010; is an organizing partner for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for the women's major group; cooperated with UNDP for the Eastern European and Central Asian region, writing joint project applications; contributed to the work of the independent expert on the right to water and sanitation of the Human Rights Council; promoted the development of UN-Women.

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

Women in Europe for a Common Future implemented Millennium Development Goal 7 in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; drinking water quality was monitored (35,000 people); access to sanitation was provided (25,000 women and children); renewable energy systems were installed (5,000 people).

Additional information

See www.wecf.eu.

5. Women's Human Rights International Association

Special, 1999

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

The Association made the following contributions:

- 3 March 2007: Women's Human Rights International Association co-sponsored a meeting, together with a dozen other NGOs, on "The role of women in confronting Islamic fundamentalism", in which six female parliamentarians

from Canada, France, Italy, Norway, Spain and the United States of America participated in the Palais des Congrès in Paris

- 9 March 2007: International Women's Day meeting in Paris
- 13 February 2009: Co-sponsored and delivered a lecture at a meeting sponsored by the Conseil des Mariannes de la République et d'Europe ("La diversité, la parité et l'égalité des chances pour tous") in the French Parliament building.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Association participated in the following meetings:

- 2007: Women's Human Rights International Association members and partners participated in the Human Rights Council (March-September). Women's Human Rights International Association participated in the Commission on the Status of Women. Women's Human Rights International Association organized a workshop entitled "Violence against the girl child in Iran" during the same session
- 2008: Women's Human Rights International Association members and partners participated in the meetings of the Human Rights Council (March, June and September)
- March 2008: Participation in the Commission on the Status of Women
- 2009: Women's Human Rights International Association members and partners participated in the March, June and September meetings of the Human Rights Council. In March 2009 three delegates participated in the Commission on the Status of Women. In September Women's Human Rights International Association held a meeting with four other human rights NGOs entitled "Respect des Conventions de Genève", with the participation of Ms. Danielle Mitterrand, in Geneva. On 16 September Women's Human Rights International Association intervened on item 4 of the Human Rights Council
- 2010: Participation in the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Human Rights Council. March: attendance at the session in New York; 15-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly; convened three workshops (solutions to domestic violence, women's health and women's human rights) in south-eastern United States of America; Youth perspective on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Platform for Action: 15 years after Beijing; Why CEDAW has not been ratified by the United States ... yet? August: participation in the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee. September: convened meetings on the human rights situation in Iraq, together with three other NGOs; Mouvement contre le racismisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples; France liberté; Organisation mondiale contre la torture, with five prominent jurists from Belgium, Canada and Spain.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Women's Human Rights International Association has contributed to human rights facts and reports for Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations in Geneva, specifically with the Special Rapporteurs on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, on the right to education, and on women's rights.

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

Women's Human Rights International Association has helped the Millennium Development Goals by facilitating the participation of university students at the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2009 and 2010. This non-traditional education is in line with one of the Goals.

6. Women's International Zionist Organization

Special, 1959

Introduction

The Women's International Zionist Organization is an international voluntary movement of 270,000 women with federations in 50 countries.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Women's International Zionist Organization provides assistance and a safe haven of comfort to all sectors of the community, from newborn babies to the elderly.

Significant changes in the organization

A new Women's International Zionist Organization Federation was established in Israel in 2007. In the last few years the Federation in Israel has increased its membership base of volunteers substantially from 22,500 members in 2007 to 35,000 members in 2011. Since 2008, the Women's International Zionist Organization has been affiliated with the International Youth Award project initiated in England by the Duke of Edinburgh. During 2007-2010, the organization collaborated with academic institutions and Government offices in various initiatives for women's empowerment and advancement: Tel Aviv University; the Prime Minister's Office for the Advancement of the Status of Women; Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation (MASHAV). Since 2007, it has cooperated with Microsoft Israel in a joint partnership venture to provide computer training courses for unemployed women.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Since its establishment, the main efforts of the Women's International Zionist Organization have been dedicated to the welfare of women and children. Its federations actively support the work of UNICEF and cooperate with national committees of the Fund. Historically, the Women's International Zionist Organization has been in the forefront of the struggle for equal opportunities for women. In the framework of the United Nations, the organization has been an active participant during the past four years at United Nations women's conferences, including the annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference and in the Commission on the Status of Women. The Women's International Zionist Organization has promoted educational programmes throughout its federations. In the past four years, owing to the proliferation of violence against women and young girls, a major concern for the organization has been to develop services geared specifically to women in the throes of family violence, such as two shelters for battered women and their children, hotlines to assist women and legal advice

bureaux to provide counsel in dangerous situations. The Women's International Zionist Organization established a day centre "ADI project", which provides therapy and rehabilitation for teenage girls and young women at high risk. It also operates 17 support homes for teenage girls in distress. In 2007 it established the "Women join the workforce" project, in cooperation with Microsoft Israel, which aims to empower women, raise self-esteem and provide crucial work skills for women at risk and from poor socio-economic backgrounds.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Women's International Zionist Organization encourages the dissemination of information on United Nations bodies among its 50 federations.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Women's International Zionist Organization Federation in Austria is in contact regularly with the representative of United Nations information centres and participates in many of their activities. The Women's International Zionist Organization is an active member of the Committee on the Status of Women and its representatives attend the meetings of that body throughout the year.

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

During the past four years, the Women's International Zionist Organization has participated in and has undertaken activities to advance the Millennium Development Goals in North and South America, South Africa and the Middle East through educational and fund-raising campaigns. Thousands of children in more than 200 day-care centres, preschools and schools are given nutritious breakfasts and hot meals. The Women's International Zionist Organization has organized several campaigns to supply food parcels to children and youth of low-income families.

7. Women's Sports Foundation

Special, 1999

Introduction

The Women's Sports Foundation was founded in 1974 by Billie Jean King, tennis legend and one of the most well-known women's advocates in the world. The aims and goals continue to be the championing of the rights of girls and women, and educating them about the importance of sports and physical activity in their lives.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Women's Sports Foundation, the leading authority on the participation of women and girls in sports, advocates for equality, educates the public, conducts research and offers grants to promote sports and physical activity for girls and women.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Representatives from the Women's Sports Foundation attended and presented papers at the following international conferences:

(1) 2006: Fourth World Conference on Women and Sport, held in Kumamoto, Japan. The Status of the Foundation's GoGirlGo programme was presented. It was reported that the programme had expanded to three cities within the United States of America (the Foundation has since expanded that number to five cities);

(2) 2008: Fifth International Olympic Committee Conference on Women and Sport, held in Jordan, where the president of the Foundation made a presentation on the role of mothers in supporting sport as an educational tool;

(3) 2010: Fifth International Working Group Conference on Women and Sports, held in Sydney, Australia, where the Foundation presented an update on its educational programmes and research papers to the more than 200 countries represented;

(4) A representative from the Foundation attended each NGO session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women from 2006 to 2011;

(5) The Foundation was host to the founder of the Muslim Women's Sports Federation and her delegation. Representatives made a presentation of the Foundation's programmes and the work it does with elite female athletes.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

A representative from the Foundation has attended the Commission on the Status of Women each year since it received consultative status. In the past three years the Foundation has co-hosted a panel seminar on the participation of girls and women in sports and physical activity, and distributed its research reports.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Foundation is a leader in research pertaining to sports and the participation of girls and women in physical activity. Representatives from the Foundation have made presentations on this topic around the world and the Foundation has published the following reports, which are made available to international sports organizations, with recommendations on how to adapt them to their respective countries: "Who's playing college sports: trends in participation"; "Who's playing sports: money, race and gender"; "Go out and play: youth sports in America"; "Her life depends on it: physical activity and the health and well-being of American girls and women"; "Women in the 2000, 2004 and 2008 Olympic and Paralympics games: an analysis of participation, leadership and media opportunities".

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

The Foundation leads the fight against discrimination and works towards gender equity in sports. It advocates for public policy that gives more girls opportunities to be active. Since its inception in 1974, the Foundation has worked diligently and persistently to: educate the media about the lack of equitable coverage of women's sports; produce research demonstrating the underrepresentation of and inequalities

faced by females, females of colour and disabled females in sports; address the issue of homophobia in sports and how it limits girls' participation and their advancement, and impacts the lives of gay and straight male and female athletes, coaches and administrators; advocate for equal employment opportunities for women in coaching, administration and other sports industry careers.

Additional information

In the past 35 years the Foundation has awarded more than \$59 million in education and cash grants. The Foundation's support of national laws prohibiting sex discrimination has resulted in high school girls' varsity sports participation from 1 in 27 in 1972 to 2 in 5 in 2006.

8. Women's Union of Russia

Special, 1999

Introduction

Women's Union of Russia is the largest all-Russian public non-governmental women's organization that has departments in 82 regions of the Russian Federation. It also includes 11 member organizations, 4 of which have federal status. WUR carried out its activities in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Strategic Plan of Action, adopted by the United Nations World Conference on Women in 1995, the Political Declaration and the "further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action", adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-third special session in 2000, the Millennium Development Goals, the National Plan of Action towards Improvement of the Status of Women in the Russian Federation, and other State normative documents.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The purpose of the organization is to: assist in raising women's status in society and their role in the political, economic, social and cultural life of the country; defend women's rights and strengthen the family; participate in the process of developing State policy concerning women, family and children; promote women to the decision-making level. From 2007 to 2010, Women's Union of Russia worked on implementing its five programmes which had been developed by the Union in 2007 in accordance with the Beijing Declaration and Strategic Plan of Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in 2000.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Strong Family — Stable State: the family and its interests have been the focus of the organization's attention during its entire existence. This programme is aimed at rendering moral and material help to the most vulnerable members of society. Within the framework of this programme, Women's Union of Russia carried out the following actions: Rights of the family; Together we are stronger; Creative

longevity (senior citizens); Care; Widows of Russia; Responsible parenthood — the basis of a stable, United Russia; Family Day; Mother's Day; International Day of Protecting Children and other charitable programmes.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

There was no participation.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

There was no cooperation.

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

No initiatives were taken.

9. Women's World Banking

Special, 1987

Introduction

The mission of Women's World Banking is to alleviate global poverty by expanding the economic assets, participation and power of the poor, especially women. Women's World Banking is a global network of 40 top-performing microfinance providers and banks in 28 countries in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Middle East that bring financial services and information to low-income entrepreneurs. The network currently serves 24 million microentrepreneurs, of whom 80 per cent are women. It is the only microfinance network explicitly focused on gender diversity and leadership in the microfinance industry.

Aims and purposes of the organization

Women's World Banking maintains a focus on serving women clients in a number of ways: by working with its network members to help develop products that enable them to serve low-income women more effectively and with greater impact; by ensuring that women are represented at all levels of the organization; and by building a business case for gender. From 2007 to 2009 the primary objectives of the organization were:

- (1) To be the pre-eminent voice for women in microfinance;
- (2) To expand outreach of the network to low-income women;
- (3) To deepen the impact of network members on low-income women;
- (4) To foster learning and collaboration across the network and industry;
- (5) To build and sustain a high performance organization.

Significant changes in the organization

The Women's World Banking network grew and became more diverse in 2009. Having one core network of microfinance providers and a separate network of commercial banks had become increasingly irrelevant, as the legal structures of

microfinance institutions began to change rapidly over the last few years. In 2009 Women's World Banking invited members of the Global Network for Banking Innovation, retail providers of microfinance services, to join the Women's World Banking network as full-fledged members. The geographic distribution of clients in the reconfigured network is as follows: Asia declined from 86 per cent of total Women's World Banking clients to 71 per cent, with a significant increase in sub-Saharan Africa, from 3 per cent to 17 per cent because of the addition of four network members (Women's World Banking Ghana, PEACE, UBA and Equity Bank). Metrics for the reconfigured network are as follows: the absolute number of women clients increased 56 per cent, from 10.9 million to 17 million; gross portfolio increased to US\$ 4.5 billion, with Latin America and Asia having the highest proportion at 43 per cent and 30 per cent, respectively.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Each implemented service and/or activity is based around the Women's World Banking's mission, vision and strategic objectives. Initiatives undertaken by the organization are in clear support of the internationally agreed development goals, in particular Millennium Development Goals 1 and 3, respectively, to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and to promote gender equality and empowerment of women.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

In October 2008, Ela Bhatt, the former Women's World Banking Board Chair and founder of the Women's World Banking network member Self-Employed Women's Association, addressed the opening session of the United Nations High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals. She called on Governments to recognize the working poor as the "backbone of every nation", who must be active decision makers and participants in ending poverty. Bhatt, representing the "Elders", urged donors to spend their good money in building local capacities and the local economy, and to support the efforts of the poor to build their own organizations.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

Women's World Banking and the United Nations Office at Nairobi co-hosted the 2009 multi-stakeholder conference, complementing its Diagnostic to Action: Microfinance in Africa, on 4 June 2009, to discuss the findings from the 2008 report of the same name published by Women's World Banking in partnership with the Africa Microfinance Action Forum. More than 200 attendees from over 35 (primarily African) countries participated in the conference, including donor agencies, such as the Agencia Española de Cooperación para el Desarrollo, the KfW Group, the Entwicklungsbank and the Department for International Development.

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

Women's World Banking ensures product development and technical assistance microfinance product and service development, formalization and organizational effectiveness. It assists network microfinance institutions to stimulate innovation and diversification in microfinance products and services, such as individual, rural and housing credit, microsavings and microinsurance, by conducting detailed

market research, creating actual products and ensuring the design and roll-out of products and services.

10. Women's World Summit Foundation

Special, 1995

Introduction

The Women's World Summit Foundation has two working sections. The women's section includes: (1) the prize for women's creativity in rural life; (2) the international Day of Rural Women; (3) the microcredit Mali sheep project; and (4) the White Ribbon Campaign. The children-youth section includes: (1) the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse, 19 November; (2) the international coalition; (3) the prize for prevention programmes; and (4) www.YouthEngage.com, a website for young people. Other activities include newsletters, conferences, workshops, award ceremonies, participation in working groups and networks within the United Nations/NGO Committee on the Status of Women and the NGO group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The aims and purposes of the organization are as follows: raising awareness; advocating/lobbying; initiating projects; convening conferences/award ceremonies; organizing two prize programmes; developing a global network; maintaining a donor base, communication channels, Internet sites and consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Population Fund and the Department of Public Information.

Significant changes in the organization

The Women's World Summit Foundation concentrated on developments of its children-youth section and added two new programmes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Women's World Summit Foundation participates with its initiatives, world days and campaigns in the implementation of human rights and the United Nations development agenda.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Foundation participated in the following meetings:

- 2007: Economic and Social Council, participated in the Innovation Fair, June; Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women briefing at the Human Rights Council (December)
- 2008: United Nations Department of Public Information/NGO conference at UNESCO, organized a workshop (September); participated in World Congress III (Rio de Janeiro) against sexual exploitation of children and adolescents and organized a workshop (November)

- 2009: Human Rights Council sessions; NGO/United Nations Geneva conference (8 March); and launched its White Ribbon campaign. The Women's World Summit Foundation celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child with an open house for the promotion of the Secretary-General study on violence against children
- 2010: Fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and 15-year review (March); one-day meeting on the rights of the child during the Human Rights Council, presented an oral statement and organized a side event (March). The Women's World Summit Foundation launched YouthEngage.com, mobilizing young people, sharing the Convention on the Rights of the Child and United Nations Youth Day (12 August).

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Foundation cooperated with United Nations bodies as follows:

- 2007: The Women's World Summit Foundation cooperated by inaugurating at the United Nations Office at Geneva and during the sixth session of the Human Rights Council, a three-week exhibition of 60 laureates of the prize for women's creativity in rural life (September); awarded 13 prizes to rural women (15 October). After 12 years of lobbying, the General Assembly declared that 15 October of each year shall be officially proclaimed and observed as the United Nations International Day of Rural Women. Originally formulated by the Women's World Summit Foundation and several NGOs during the Beijing World Conference, the declaration is a positive example of cooperation with United Nations bodies. The open letter to rural women on the theme "claim your right to food!", included references to United Nations declarations, conventions, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Millennium Development Goals (October). The Women's World Summit Foundation awarded four prizes for prevention of child abuse.
- 2008: Representatives attended the International Labour Organization (ILO) International Women's Day event, which included on the panel one of the Women's World Summit Foundation prize laureates, Rupa Manuel Silva from Sri Lanka, who presented a report on the bank for rural women she created, together with a powerful video on her work (8 March). The Women's World Summit Foundation awarded 13 prizes for women's creativity in rural life and organized a side event at the United Nations Office at Geneva (15 October), to celebrate (1) the laureates, (2) the International Day of Rural Women, (3) World Food Day and (4) the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The theme of the open letter to rural women was "claim your right to development as a woman's right" (October). Representatives attended the Human Rights Council sessions in March, May, June and October, and presented a statement, "Women are the key to ending poverty and hunger". The Women's World Summit Foundation awarded five prizes for prevention of child abuse.
- 2009: The Women's World Summit Foundation awarded 10 laureates with the prize for women's creativity in rural life. The theme of the open letter to rural women was "claim your right to health and well-being" (October). The Women's World Summit Foundation launched the Swiss White Ribbon campaign (February).

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

Since 2007, the Women's World Summit Foundation has been supporting the Millennium Development Goals with its microcredit Mali sheep project for the economic empowerment of rural women. It organized a capacity-building workshop for the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (October). In 2008, 2009 and 2010 the Women's World Summit Foundation sponsored over 1,000 sheep as part of the Mali microcredit project.

11. World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations

Special, 1947

Introduction

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) is a worldwide Christian, ecumenical, voluntary movement for women and men, with special emphasis on the involvement of young people, which seeks to share the Christian ideal of building a human community of peace with justice for all, irrespective of race, class, religion or gender.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations, based in Geneva, is a confederation of National Councils of YMCAs around the world. Its work in the areas of advocacy, youth leadership development, capacity-building and emergency response, supports YMCAs worldwide to serve young people and their communities.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The World Alliance of YMCAs keeps specialized personnel in Geneva and New York to attend various sessions of the United Nations, especially the ones related to human rights and status of the women. The organization continued its efforts to implement the memorandum of understanding between the UNICEF and the World Alliance for combating HIV and AIDS, and promoting basic education, gender equality and the protection of children.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The World Alliance participated in the following meetings:

- 2007: UNICEF NGO Committee: Working Group on Girls, New York, 11 January; United Nations Industrial Development Organization/African Union High-level Consultative Meeting on Productive Work for Youth in West Africa, with emphasis on the Manu River Union, in cooperation with the Secretary-General's Youth Employment Network (YEN) and the United Nations Office for West Africa, Accra, 19 and 20 February; briefing for girl and young adult delegates to the NGO Conference, New York, 25 February; Commission on the Status of Women, fifty-first session, focusing on the girl

child, New York, 26 February-9 March; Human Rights Council, fourth session, Geneva, 12 March-5 April; UNICEF NGO Committee: Working Group on Girls, New York, 3 May; Committee on the Rights of the Child, forty-fifth session, Geneva, 21 May-8 June; Goals and Targets for Monitoring the Progress of Youth in the Global Economy: United Nations focal point for the youth meeting, New York, 29-31 May; briefing session by the Bureau for External Relations and Partnerships of ILO on the ninety-sixth session of the International Labour Conference, Geneva, 30 May; International Youth Day, New York, 10 August; Preparatory Committee for the Durban Review Conference, Geneva, 27-31 August; Conference on the Positive Impact of Information and Communications Technology on the Environment and Climate Change, New York, 27 and 28 November; International NGO Conference, organized by UNESCO, Paris, 5-7 December; Commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the Special Session on Children, New York, 11 and 12 December.

- 2008: Universal Periodic Review, Geneva, 10 April; Universal Periodic Review Session and Y Care Meeting, Geneva, 15 April; meeting with the Department of Public Information on the Paris Conference, Geneva, 24 April; expert group meeting on goals and targets for the World Programme of Action for Youth, New York, 19-21 May; NGO Group on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNICEF headquarters, Geneva, 21 May; NGO Planning Committee, sixty-first annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference, New York, 21 May.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

UNICEF (2007-2010): the World Alliance of YMCAs maintains its close work with UNICEF under the memorandum of understanding signed in 2006 for combating HIV and AIDS, promoting basic education, gender equality and protection of children.

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

The World Alliance has been working for more than eight years in support of the Millennium Development Goals by raising awareness about them with its membership, with special focus on combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

12. World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations

Special, 1991

Introduction

The World Association of Industrial and Technological Research Organizations is an independent, non-governmental and not-for-profit association established to promote and encourage cooperation among industrial and technological research and development organizations. The organization currently has 168 members in 77 countries and cooperates with over 500 other institutes and international agencies worldwide.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The World Association aims to be an enabler for developing action-oriented partnerships among member organizations for sustainable development. It fosters links between member organizations through the following objectives:

- To encourage and facilitate transfer of research results and technical know-how
- To promote the exchange of experience in research and technology management
- To enhance capabilities in the management of research and technological organizations
- To identify and promote fields of research suitable for international collaboration, new opportunities and markets
- To promote technological research and capacity-building in the developing countries

Significant changes in the organization

Over the four-year period, the organization has had fewer members from North America and Europe as compared to the Africa and Asia and the Pacific regions.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In support of the agenda of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council, the organization identified specific challenges and priorities of each region where its member organizations could use science and technology interventions to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, especially as collaborative efforts of member institutes from developed and developing countries. The areas identified are environment, energy, poverty alleviation, water, health and food security.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The World Association has not had the chance to participate in any related United Nations forums.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Association have an ongoing joint cooperation initiative known as the UNIDO-WAITRO Labnetwork project. The project is targeted towards the establishment of accredited laboratories through interactive support from the UNIDO-WAITRO Labnetwork portal, a web-based portal for ISO/IEC 17025 laboratory accreditation. The objectives of the project are to develop and maintain the Labnetwork portal in order to:

- Provide access and disseminate testing laboratory and activity information
- Share experience with respect to laboratory design, management, development, maintenance and capabilities
- Enable interaction and response in issues related to proficiency testing, certified reference materials, traceability and international trade-related issues

- Facilitate information to industry/trade on testing/calibration and product-specific information.

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

The World Association took the following initiatives:

- The World Association and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) embarked on poverty alleviation projects for enhancing the efficiency and safety of hydrogenerators and extending the power supply to larger areas in order to support post-harvest processing activities of local herbs in Kampung Libang Laut, Tambunan, Sabah, Malaysia. The first phase of this project was completed on 19 February 2009
- The World Association also partnered with ISESCO on a microhydropower system project for the improvement of the economy in Cibunar-Sukapada Village, Tasik Malaya, West Java, Indonesia; it was completed on 26 August 2008
- The World Association, ISESCO and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences embarked on the second phase of the poverty alleviation project, focusing on economic empowerment, in 2010
- The Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, India, and the World Association organized a two-week workshop on food safety in New Delhi, from 4 to 18 December 2009
- The World Association co-organized a networking session in Mexico with UNIDO and the Institute of Electrical Research, Mexico, on 19 and 20 March 2009
- The Second International Committee on Food Microbiology and Hygiene Workshop, "Food Safety in Africa", was organized by the International Union of Microbiological Societies and the International Committee on Food Microbiology and Hygiene, in collaboration with the University of Stellenbosch and the World Association, at the University of Stellenbosch, Stellenbosch, South Africa, from 26 November to 1 December 2008
- The regional workshop on integrated water resources management was organized by the Royal Scientific Society, Jordan, in cooperation with the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues and the World Association, from 7 to 9 March 2007. The workshop aimed at discussing the major problems presently faced and how science could contribute to overcoming them.

13. World Blind Union

General, 1999

Introduction

The World Blind Union is the internationally recognized voice of blind and partially sighted persons at the global level. It represents 285 million blind and partially sighted persons in approximately 190 countries, organized into six geographic regions.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Union's vision is a community where people who are blind or partially sighted are empowered to participate on an equal basis in any aspect of life they choose. This is achieved through work in the areas of representation and advocacy, capacity-building and resource sharing.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Union has contributed to the work of the United Nations in the following ways: the Union has undertaken significant activity related to the promotion and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the Union is a member of the panel of experts for the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities; it is a core member of the International Disability Alliance and was Chair of the Alliance for one term; the Union also contributes to numerous reports and statements of United Nations agencies and treaty bodies to ensure that the needs of blind persons are included.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The President and former President of the World Blind Union attended conferences of the States parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008, 2009 and 2010, and meetings with the Monitoring Committee of the Convention in 2009 and 2010; the Union submitted a brief and participated in Convention general days of discussion (October 2009, October 2010); various United Nations agency officials, including Ambassador Don MacKay, Chair of the Convention ad hoc committee, and the Deputy High Commissioner of Human Rights were invited to participate in the World Blind Union general assembly, held in Geneva in August 2008; the Chair of the Convention Monitoring Committee attended and made a presentation to the World Blind Union Executive Committee at its meeting in Melbourne, Australia, in November 2010; the Union was represented by the Chair of the World Blind Union Children's Network at the United Nations Commission for Social Development, in February 2010.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The World Blind Union provided cooperation as follows:

- World Health Organization (WHO) — work with the disability and rehabilitation team; input into new community-based rehabilitation guidelines and the World Report on Disability; participation in the World Health Assembly (May 2009); member of the Vision 2020 initiative; participation in the WHO Vision 2020 evaluation meeting (September 2010)
- UNESCO — participation in the “Education for All” flagship initiative on education for children with disabilities in September 2007 (Geneva) and September 2009 (Paris)
- UNICEF — Chair of the Children's Network

- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) — member of the NGO working group and attendance at monthly meetings in New York; participation of the President of the World Blind Union and other representatives in the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights regarding the establishment of a treaty for the visually impaired, in 2008, 2009 and 2010
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights — ongoing cooperation and interventions, in conjunction with International Disability Alliance members; the former President of the World Blind Union attended a meeting in October 2009 to contribute to the thematic study about legal measures for implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; the former President attended a meeting with the High Commissioner on 13 December 2010 to review various issues related to the Convention
- ILO — the President of the World Blind Union attended the ILO annual conference in Geneva in June 2010
- World Bank — the World Blind Union is a founding member of the Global Program for Disability and Development and the President of the World Blind Union is a member of the Board
- Universal Postal Union (UPU) — the President of the European Blind Union represented the World Blind Union at UPU committee meetings, held in Berne in 2009 and 2010
- International Organization for Standardization — the World Blind Union has been involved in the development of standards for pedestrian tactile walking surfaces; it is also represented in the accessible design working group of the International Organization for Standardization.

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

The World Blind Union launched the “education for all visually impaired children” initiative, in cooperation with the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment, in 2007; it is an active participant in the programme, which is now implemented in 11 focus countries and recognized as being high-performing by UNESCO. The Union also participates in the UNESCO “Education for All” flagship initiative on education for children with disabilities.

14. World Coal Institute

Special, 1991

Introduction

The World Coal Institute, based in London, is the global industry association for coal producers and stakeholders. Its members include the world’s largest coal producers, Peabody Energy, Shenhua Group, BHP Billiton, Rio Tinto, Xstrata and Anglo American.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The World Coal Institute and its member companies engage constructively and openly with Governments, the scientific community, multilateral organizations, non-governmental organizations, the media, coal producers and users, and others on global issues, such as reduction of carbon dioxide emissions and sustainable development, and on local issues, including environmental and socio-economic benefits and the effects from coal mining and coal use.

Significant changes in the organization

In 2010 the World Coal Institute welcomed its first member from the People's Republic of China, extending the geographical coverage of its membership to a country central to the future of the global coal industry.

Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The focus of the work of the World Coal Institute supports global efforts to address the joint global priorities of action to address climate change and sustainable development. The Institute takes the view that an effective and sustainable climate response must integrate environmental imperatives with the legitimate aims of energy security and economic development, including poverty alleviation. These issues are inextricably linked. The world's least developed countries need access to low-cost energy, but they are also the most vulnerable to the impacts of policies aimed at reducing anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Over the past four years, the World Coal Institute has attended each session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties to the Kyoto Protocol. Most recently, representatives of the Institute attended the Sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Cancun, Mexico. In June 2010 a representative of the Institute, on behalf of the business and industry constituency, addressed the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice of the Framework Convention.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The World Coal Institute did not receive requests to cooperate with United Nations bodies during the quadrennial period. As an admitted observer organization to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, it will be cooperating with the secretariat in the development of modalities and procedures for the inclusion of carbon capture and storage in geographical formations in the clean development mechanism.

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

Owing to scarce funds and limited staff resources, the World Coal Institute is not directly involved in international meetings relating to the Millennium Development Goals. In November 2010 the Board of the Institute agreed to develop a workplan associated with the expected participation of the Institute in the United Nations

Commission on Sustainable Development Earth Summit, scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro in 2012.

15. World Federation for Mental Health

Special, 1963

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

The World Federation for Mental Health founded World Mental Health Day (10 October), which focuses on public education about mental illness, treatment and human rights, subjects relevant to public health, many areas of United Nations work and the work of WHO. Annual activities in observance of the Day are held in many countries and the Secretary-General issues a message in support of it.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Federation has participated in the following meetings:

- 2007: Fifty-first session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 26 February-9 March; the main representative of the Federation organized a side event on “Violence and the mental health consequences for the girl child”, at the Church Center for the United Nations, in New York on 27 February, and a side event on “Building a mental healthy environment to promote gender equity for girls”, at the Church Center, on 5 March. A Federation representative moderated a panel on “Mental health implications of violence and discrimination against the girl child”, at the Church Center, on 7 March. At the first session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, the main representative of the Federation helped plan a side event of the NGO Committee on Mental Health on “Integration of mental health and psychosocial issues into disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action”, at the Centre international de conférences, in Geneva on 7 June
- 2008: Commission on the Status of Women, fifty-second session, New York, 25 February-7 March; the Federation presented a side event on “Conflict resolution: good practices for gender empowerment”, at the Church Center for the United Nations on 27 February; the Federation co-sponsored a side event on “Financing for women’s mental health and gender empowerment”, at the Church Center, on 28 February; the Federation helped organize a panel on “Investing in women’s mental health”, at the Church Center on 5 March

- 2009: Commission on the Status of Women, fifty-third session, New York, 2-13 March; the Federation co-sponsored three side events at the Church Center for the United Nations: “Addressing the mental health and psychosocial consequences of HIV/AIDS for women and girls”, on 5 March; “Sharing the caring equally: mental health and human rights perspectives”, on 12 March; and “A look at mental health and the well-being of caregivers when men and women take responsibility together”, on 12 March 2009. In June a Federation representative was elected Vice-Chair of the NGO Committee on Mental Health
- 2010: Commission on the Status of Women, fifty-fourth session, 1-12 March; during the fifty-fourth session, the Federation sponsored a workshop on “Natural disasters and mental health: consequences for recovery and resilience in women and children”. Two Federation representatives and several members attended the Global NGO Forum for Women: Beijing+15, held in New York on 27 and 28 February.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The World Federation for Mental Health is an NGO in an official relationship with WHO (status renewed in 2010). WHO co-sponsored two conferences where the Federation was an organizing partner (Fifth World Conference on the Promotion of Mental Health and Prevention of Mental and Behavioural Disorders, Melbourne, Australia, 10-12 September 2008, and Sixth World Conference, Washington, D.C., 17-19 November 2010). World Mental Health Day symposiums were held jointly with the Pan American Health Organization, the regional office of WHO, at its Washington, D.C., headquarters on 10 October 2007, 2008 and 2009. In 2008 the World Mental Health Day theme selected by the Federation was “Making mental health a global priority through advocacy and action” and the main representative collaborated in organizing a three-hour programme of the United Nations Department of Public Information attended by over 200 people (United Nations Headquarters, 9 October 2008).

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

WHO notes the close association of mental health conditions with poverty and their high contribution to the global burden of disease. The Federation’s advocacy for improved care supports WHO activities in the mental health field and is very relevant to the areas of the Millennium Development Goals concerned with the health of women and with economic development (Goals 3, 5 and 8).