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## **Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations** 2017 resumed session 22-31 May and 12 June 2017

## Quadrennial reports for the period 2012-2015 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31\*

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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



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## 1. Association graines de paix

### Special, 2012

### Introduction

Graines de paix is a non-governmental organization engaged in education for peace and intercultural peace. It develops teaching tools and activities in order to promote peaceful relations and prevent violence.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization emphasizes the human values that we can all share, the unacceptability of violence and the practice of peaceful responses in order to calm and deflect violence.

#### Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

#### Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

No contribution was specified.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

- In 2013, Graines de paix participated in the "Positive peace and the post-2015 development agenda" meeting as well as a high-level meeting on the human right to peace within the framework of the International Day of Peace.
- In 2014, the organization participated in a conference led by Michael Møller on the respective roles of the United Nations for Geneva, and of Geneva for the United Nations. It has also frequently participated in meetings on the human right to peace, on education regarding the human right to peace and education regarding the culture of peace.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations system entities**

In 2014, Graines de paix became a member of the network of foundations and research institutions for the promotion of a culture of peace in Africa of the United Nations Educational, Science and Education Organization.

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

Our activities are aligned with both the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals to promote quality education.

- In 2012, thanks to a partnership between the Ministry of Education of Côte d'Ivoire and Graines de paix, a four-year continuing education programme was launched to establish dialogue, cooperation, respect and inclusivity as scholastic standards. Over the course of the past three years, this programme has trained 300 local training consultants, who in turn trained a total of 19,919 primary school teachers. Today, 519,546 children regularly benefit from the improved pedagogical methods that their teachers have adopted to ensure quality education.
- Graines de paix has developed a collection of pedagogical guides and booklets for primary school students called "Growing up in Peace". These manuals include a number of interactive activities that stimulate reflection in children

aged 4 years and over. Using this method, students refine personal and social skills such as respect, consideration, compassion, empathy and mutual assistance, as well as cognitive skills such as reflection and judgment. These different skills help to boost self-esteem, prevent violence, predict the results of actions and develop harmonious relationships, all of which generally has a positive impact on students' academic success.

• Published by Loisirs et Pédagogie (Leisure and Pedagogy) the "Growing up in Peace" collection has also been selected by the Education 21 Foundation for inclusion in their catalogue of educational resources for sustainable development education.

## 2. Coordination française du lobby européen des femmes

#### Special, 2000

#### Introduction

The Coordination française du lobby européen des femmes is a national coordinating body comprising 65 feminist associations involved in all areas of women's rights. The organization advocates for the recognition and implementation of equality between women and men in order to create a responsible and united society. It also supports actions for equal rights across Europe and is part of a movement of solidarity with women around the world, especially those in the Euro-Mediterranean region and in French-speaking countries.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization advocates for the recognition and implementation of equality between women and men so that they can work together to build a responsible and inclusive society. To achieve this, it develops actions in different areas: promoting gender equality and women's entrepreneurship; combating violence against women and religious extremism; providing support for migrant women; fighting for professional equality, access to health care and reproductive rights; and enhancing the role of women in sports.

#### Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

#### Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

- In 2012, the organization was part of the working group responsible for drafting input for the seventh report submitted by the Government of France to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
- In 2013, the organization participated in a meeting of the working group tasked with preparing the report on implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.
- In 2015, the organization launched a project called "Tour de France d'égalité" (The Tour de France of Equality) to promote the Convention. It sent a message to the European Union to obtain its support for the Beijing Platform for Action and to urge the European Union to enhance its commitment to and investment in women's rights.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

- In 2012, the organization participated in the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women as a member of the French delegation.
- During the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the organization organized a side event workshop on 7 March 2013 entitled "Rape, a crime against humanity. Stop the impunity".
- In 2014, the organization participated in a side event organized by the Regards de femmes association on "Strengthening women's rights in the area of birth registration to ensure the access of all girls to development programmes" during the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women.
- The organization also attended the Regional Review Meeting of the Economic Commission for Europe on the 20-year review of the Beijing Declaration (Beijing+20) from 3 to 5 November 2014 in New York.
- In 2015, the organization participated in the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and submitted a written statement. During that session, it also held a parallel workshop on 14 March 2015 entitled "Universalization of the Istanbul Convention and the establishment of a system to monitor and evaluate international mechanisms on violence against women".

#### **Cooperation with United Nations system entities**

In 2015, in preparation for the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and as a member of the Gender and Climate Justice group, the organization signed the petition presented by the High Council for Occupational Equality between Women and Men to "support women affected by climate change". It also organized a workshop parallel to the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties on "Feminism and Climate Justice".

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

No activities were specified.

## 3. Fondation connaissance et liberté

#### Special, 2008

#### Introduction

Fondation connaissance et liberté is a Haitian public-interest institution created in 1995 and recognized by the Government of Haiti.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's mission is to help build a just, democratic and inclusive society. It is involved in activities related to education, science, culture, community building and the environment.

#### Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

#### Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

No contribution was specified.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

No participation was specified.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations system entities**

In 2014, the Secretary-General of the United Nations invited the Fondation to become a member of the High-level Panel on the Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries.

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

No activities were specified.

## 4. Fonds pour le développement énergétique durable

#### Special, 2000

### Introduction

The Fonds pour le développement énergétique durable is a French non-profit organization comprised of energy sector companies as well as natural persons who are experts in development economics, energy and climate change. It was created in 1992 in the context of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development; its first members were the seven largest electricity companies in the Group of Seven countries (the E7 Group).

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

Through its studies and its investment in other projects that respect the principles of sustainable development, the Fonds focuses on promoting renewal energy, the Clean Development Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol and universal access to energy in developing countries.

#### Significant changes in the organization

The organization has changed its name, its composition and its address, moving to Paris in 2014 as a result of its growing number of members and the shifting orientations of some of them.

#### **Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations**

The Fonds supported the Sustainable Energy for All initiative led by the Secretary-General and contributed to the efforts that led to the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 7 on universal access to energy during the 2015 session of the General Assembly.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Fonds actively participated in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012 and organized an important side event to promote its activities in support of the initiative of the Secretary-General.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations system entities**

- The Fonds supports the Sustainable Energy for All initiative at the United Nations Office at Vienna.
- Each year, it has participated in the sessions of the Vienna and New York Energy Forums.
- It has likewise actively participated in events organized during the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change from the outset, including during the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties in Paris in December 2015.

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

The Fonds has actively participated in funding commitments and initiatives led by the African Union, France and Europe on the subject of African electrification, in collaboration with the African Development Bank (in the context of the African Renewable Energy Initiative). The Fonds is a founding member of the Africa Grid association, which brings together companies that are actively working to expand electricity throughout the African continent.

## 5. Organisation mondiale des experts-conseils arbitres

### Special, 1996

### Introduction

The Organisation mondiale des experts-conseils arbitres was created by generous men and women who recognized the important role played by a wide range of experts, lawyers and magistrates in the development of global society, and, in particular, the least developed countries that are States Members of the United Nations.

### Aims and purposes of the organization

Since its inception, the Organisation mondiale des experts-conseils arbitres has established offices throughout the world, bringing together highly qualified experts from Germany, England, Italy, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal; Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and elsewhere in Africa; Jordan, Lebanon and the Gulf States; and the United States of America, among other countries.

#### Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

#### Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

- The organization attended the ninth congress of the Order of International Experts, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 27 to 29 January 2014.
- It also participated in the conference on forests that took place at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 21 March 2014.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

See above.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations system entities**

No cooperation was specified.

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

No activities were specified.

## 6. Stiftung Brot fuer Alle

#### Special, 2012

#### Introduction

Stiftung Brot fuer Alle is committed to a more equitable world. Development policy is at the heart of its work. Its main themes are the right to food, and business and human rights.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

Brot fuer Alle is the development service of Swiss Protestant churches. Through its development policy activities, the organization seeks to influence national and international policies and economies towards equitable and sustainable development. Brot fuer Alle raises awareness among the Swiss population on North-South issues and establishes linkages with organizations at the national, European and global levels. The organization helps its partners in the global South to assert their political demands and rights. It also helps them to build capacity, fight against injustice and develop networks and synergies. Brot fuer Alle essentially relies on donations to finance its operations and the aforementioned projects.

#### Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

#### Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization supported its Ecuadorian partner with the drafting of a parallel report and the presentation of supplementary information on violations of the right to food to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights during its forty-ninth session. It also organized a side event on access to land during the twenty-first session of the Human Rights Council.

Brot fuer Alle supports all its partners with the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

In 2012, the organization worked with its partner Action de Carême to develop an awareness-raising campaign in Switzerland in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20). Two partners from the South were invited to "bring their voices to Rio" in order to participate in exchanges with delegations during the Conference.

Brot fuer Alle is committed to the development of a United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas and supports the coordination of peasant delegations from the South in order to help them collaborate with the Intergovernmental Working Group and participate in exchanges with their national representatives. The organization lobbies Swiss representatives to ensure greater protections for peasants.

Brot fuer Alle follows the work of the United Nations Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, as well as the measures to implement the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in Switzerland. The Swiss Government is currently working to draft the United Nations Guiding Principles for Switzerland. Brot fuer Alle was one of the non-governmental organizations that participated in the consultations on that strategy.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

Brot fuer Alle and two of its partners from the South participated in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20). In Geneva, the organization participated as an observer during the final sessions of the Intergovernmental Working Group of the United Nations Human Rights Council on the declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. Each year, Brot fuer Alle representatives and partners participate in the United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights. In 2014, Brot fuer Alle co-organized a side event during the Forum entitled "Privatized remedy and human rights: Rethinking project-level grievance mechanisms".

#### **Cooperation with United Nations system entities**

The organization dialogues with United Nations special rapporteurs. It follows the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights and transnational companies and other business enterprises and is committed to ensuring that Swiss companies comply with these principles.

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

The organization has pledged to help achieve Goals 1 and 7 by supporting relevant projects. It has also followed the elaboration of the Sustainable Development Goals and exchanged viewpoints with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation regarding the mainstreaming of those Goals in existing programmes and projects. Brot fuer Alle is focused on Goals 2, 12 and 13.

#### 7. Tour opération et initiatives

#### Special, 2012

#### Introduction

Tour opération et initiatives is a non-governmental organization based in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo). It has partnerships with several public institutions. It is a permanent member of the National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization's goals are as follows: reduce poverty in rural areas by involving local populations in sustainable development; promote trade; encourage the protection and participation of populations by providing trustworthy information and facilitating access to education, food security and primary health care for all; contribute to the fight against HIV/AIDS and all endemic diseases; support the fight against global warming and deforestation; combat corruption, drug abuse and all forms of violence against women and girls; and train, inform and educate the general public about information technology.

#### Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

#### Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Tour opération et initiatives has both chaired and facilitated meetings, workshops and seminars on HIV/AIDS, on gender and the rights of indigenous peoples and Pygmies, and on drug abuse. In collaboration with Swiss Village, Hope to the Future, the Government of Japan, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom and the United Nations Development Programme, Tour opération et initiatives has organized several meetings, workshops, seminars and training sessions on pollutants and energy in the city of Kinshasa.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The organization attended the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Doha from 26 November to 8 December 2012.

### **Cooperation with United Nations system entities**

No cooperation was specified.

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

- The organization helped to promote the production of major seasonal crops such as corn, cassava, squash and groundnuts in Bandundu province, in order to reduce poverty.
- It also organized six conferences on energy in 2013 in six different cities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in collaboration with the national energy service of the Congolese Ministry of Rural Development. It moreover organized a series of conferences on the outskirts of Kinshasa on the subject of AIDS and gender.

## 8. Union internationale des huissiers de justice et officiers judiciaires

#### Special, 1996

## Introduction

The Union internationale des huissiers de justice et officiers judiciaires was created in 1952. In 2015, it included members of organizations representing the profession from 87 countries across the American, African, Asian and European continents.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

The Union seeks to represent its members before international organizations and to ensure collaboration with national professional bodies as well as the implementation of international treaties. It strives to promote ideas, projects and initiatives that are designed to elevate and advance the independent status of judicial officers. The Union also participates in structural actions to support judicial officers, including through its involvement in the establishment and development of national professional organizations in preparation for their membership of the Union.

It participates in expert missions for Governments and international organizations.

Finally, the organization promotes wherever possible the establishment of a body of judicial officers who are senior legal professionals and fulfil a dual function, effecting service of judicial and extrajudicial documents and enforcing court rulings.

#### Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

#### Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Following its creation of the World Day of the Judicial Officer in 2008, the Union now hopes to create, in collaboration with the other legal professions, the World Day of Judicial Professionals. The goal is primarily to have this event recognized as one of the United Nations World Days.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

The Union participated in the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in October 2012.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations system entities**

- In 2012, the Union became an observer member of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and attended that session of UNCITRAL.
- In April 2013, the organization participated in an UNCITRAL working group.
- In September 2013, the Union participated in the third Africa-Europe UNCITRAL meeting of judicial officers in Lomé, Togo, on the topics: "The Judicial Officer, Actor of the Legal Governance" and "20 Years of the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa (OHADA): a Model for African and European Judicial Officers".

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

In support of the Millennium Development Goals, the Union has undertaken the following activities, among others:

- It trained representatives from the Ministry of Justice on international legal assistance in Kosovo in October 2013.
- It conducted four training seminars in the context of the joint European Union/National Chamber of the Judicial Officers of Hungary project from April to November 2013.
- In November 2013, the Union participated in the Rule of Law Initiative for Central Asia.
- In February 2014, it signed a cooperation agreement with the Higher Regional School of Magistracy (Ersuma) and the OHADA training establishment in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

- It also signed a cooperation agreement with the Caribbean Court of Justice in 2014.
- The Union attended the first Asia-Europe meeting of judicial officers in Bangkok, Thailand, from 17 to 21 April 2014, in order to facilitate the exchange of good practices with nine countries from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

## 9. Vie Montante Internationale

#### Special, 2000

### Introduction

Vie Montante Internationale was established in 1985 to expand the activities of Vie Montante France on the international scene. It currently has 33 full or associate member countries and contacts with a dozen other countries.

#### Aims and purposes of the organization

As people live longer, a new social category is emerging: before old age, there is a period of life that can be useful to society. The objective of the organization is to give this period of life the value it deserves, by helping older persons and retirees to make this stage of life fruitful for themselves and others, and to develop their sense of self-worth and understanding of their role by deepening their spiritual life.

Vie Montante Internationale coordinates the activities and resources generated by groups in different countries by proposing topics for reflection and dialogue on the activities of older and retired persons.

Each movement is organized nationally. Depending on the country in question, the organization has a number of different names (Vie Montante, Vida Ascendente, Life Ascending, Ascent, Mouvement Chrétien des Retraités, etc.). Coordinators on the continent periodically meet with the organization's president and executive committee. The organization publishes a quarterly international bulletin in three languages (French, English and Spanish) and also has a website.

#### Significant changes in the organization

In October 2014, the general assembly of Vie Montante Internationale met in Namur, Belgium, and elected a new executive committee.

### Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

- Since 2011, the organization has regularly attended meetings of the working group of the NGO Committee on Ageing in Geneva, which has allowed it to monitor the activities launched by various United Nations bodies, other international organizations and non-governmental organizations throughout the world.
- Each year, Vie Montante Internationale has attended the Social Forum of the Human Rights Council, which has focused on topics such as: "People-centred development and globalization" (2012); "The rights of older persons" (2014); and "Access to medicines" (2015).
- The organization celebrates the International Day of Older Persons each year on 1 October.

• International non-governmental organizations dealing with ageing have been encouraged by the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, Ms. Rosa Kornfeld-Matte, to collect data with a view to drafting future reports on the observance of the rights of older persons.

#### Participation in meetings of the United Nations

- Each year, Vie Montante Internationale participates in the three sessions of the Human Rights Council that take place in Geneva in March, June and September; it likewise participates in the organized side events that focus on ageing, health, women and abuse.
- The organization also attends the meetings of the thematic committees dealing with these matters, as well as meetings organized by other international entities addressing the topic of ageing, such as the Economic Commission for Europe, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization.
- During the session of the Commission on the Status of Women from 9 to 20 March 2015, in celebration of Beijing+20, a special session was devoted to older women, during which the Independent Expert Ms. Kornfeld-Matte called on all Governments to ensure that older women did not remain invisible.
- The organization attended the WHO Ministerial Conference on Global Action against Dementia on 17 March 2015 in Geneva, under the auspices of the United Kingdom and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations system entities**

No cooperation was specified.

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

No activities were specified.