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### **Quadrennial reports for the period 2013–2016 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31\***

#### **Note by the Secretary-General**

#### **Addendum**

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



## **1. Archbishop E. Kataliko Actions for Africa “KAF”**

### **Special, 2013**

#### **Introduction**

Archbishop E. Kataliko Actions for Africa “KAF” is a non-governmental organization that has enjoyed special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 2013. The organization’s headquarters are in South Kivu province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

KAF aims to contribute to the fight against torture, HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and other similar serious diseases; to protect the environment and human rights; and to promote democracy and human rights. The sectors of activity in which the organization is involved include health, sustainable development, education, direct assistance to the victims of crimes against humanity, direct medical assistance to indigent persons and lobbying at the United Nations.

#### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

KAF participated in sessions of the Human Rights Council and other special procedures, such as the review of the Democratic Republic of the Congo conducted at the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, held in Geneva from 28 April to 9 May 2014.

The organization also took part in the sixty-ninth session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), held in Geneva from 18 May to 5 June 2015. The session was dedicated to the consideration of the reports submitted by eight countries (including Eritrea, Ethiopia and Ghana) on the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

#### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

Since obtaining consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, KAF has been very active at the United Nations.

It has had permanent representation at United Nations Headquarters in New York as well as at the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna since 2013. Every year, the organization has participated in the work of the Human Rights Council and other special procedures, including the thirtieth and thirty-third regular sessions of the Council, held in Geneva from 14 September to 2 October 2015 and 13 to 30 September 2016 respectively. KAF made it possible for two members of the recently formed National Human Rights Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to participate in the thirtieth session and learn about the Council’s functioning.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

KAF participated in the meeting of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Geneva on 25 February 2016. The goal of the meeting was to set out the priorities of the United

Nations for 2016 and to discuss how the participation of NGOs could be further strengthened.

Through a project on recognition of the status of victims of war crimes and crimes against humanity in South Kivu and the psychological rehabilitation of victims from the town of Bukavu and the territory of Kabare, supported by the International Criminal Court Trust Fund for Victims, Archbishop E. Kataliko Actions for Africa continued to provide physical and psychological rehabilitation and material support to the victims of sexual violence, and to document the psychological harm that they have suffered.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

KAF has taken initiatives in support of the Sustainable Development Goals through field activities geared towards rehabilitating the victims of war crimes, improving hospital management and building a new hospital centre, educating the population (especially young people aged 16 to 25 and women) about democratic elections, providing medical assistance to prisoners and victims of torture, and promoting reforestation. With regard to the hospital, the topics and activities affected by the project include employment for male and female nurses, health (prevention, access to primary health care, and reproductive health), sustainable development (use of environmentally friendly building materials), vocational training, the environment (hospital waste management) and the planting of trees around the hospital. At the hospital, KAF has treated more than 6,000 people, including more than 700 pregnant women and 3,000 children. Through all these activities, the organization has contributed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 13 and 15.

## **2. Association culturelle d'aide à la promotion éducative et sociale**

### **Special, 2001**

#### **Introduction**

The Association culturelle d'aide à la promotion éducative et sociale was established in 1972 in response to an educational and sociocultural crisis of which women and young people were the primary victims. Its activities extend throughout Senegal and affect other African countries. It was recognized as an NGO in 1982.

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The aim of the organization is to contribute to sustainable human development through education and comprehensive civic training for social change. Its goals are supporting the integration and reintegration of young people and women, whether disadvantaged or not, into active life; supporting the self-help initiatives of its members to achieve active and responsible participation in their communities' development efforts, with a view to laying the foundations for a solidarity-based economy; promoting and developing communication tools to publicize the organization's ideals and achieve its goals as well as those of its partners; and promoting exchange, cooperation and integration between nations and communities, as well as self-reinforcement while respecting sociocultural differences and realities. Its main activities are holistic education for social change; economic and social self-help and training; and social and civic mobilization.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The association has helped to elaborate a comprehensive and inclusive education policy through the Commission for the Promotion of Education for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The association participated in the following meetings:

- The celebration of the sixty-sixth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Dakar on 10 December 2014.
- The Sixty-sixth Annual United Nations Department of Public Information NGO Conference on the theme “Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together”, held in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea, from 30 May to 1 June 2016.
- The United Nations International Conference in Support of Israeli-Palestinian Peace, held in Geneva on 29 and 30 June 2016.
- The high-level political forum on sustainable development, held in New York from 11 to 20 July 2016.
- The fifty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York.

In addition, the association was elected as a member of the 2nd Permanent General Assembly of the Economic, Social and Cultural Council of the African Union.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

No information was provided.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

The following initiatives were taken:

- Organization of a seminar/workshop on Sustainable Development Goal 1, in Thiès, Senegal, on 8 and 9 September 2015.
- Participation in the development and dissemination of the NGO environmental strategy for World Environment Day in France, which contributed to the achievement of Goals 13, 14 and 15.
- Participation in the International Conference on the Question of Jerusalem in Dakar in February 2016, in relation to Goal 16.
- Organization of World AIDS Day events on 1 June each year from 2013 to 2016 in Dakar, Thiès and Rufisque, Senegal (Goal 3).
- Participation in a youth forum on the theme “Marriage and the fight against AIDS” held in Tambacounda, Senegal (Goal 3).
- Participation in a youth forum on the theme “Youth and the environment” held in Mbour, Senegal (Goal 3).

- Participation in a workshop of experts tasked with preparing a teacher-training module for primary school teacher-training colleges (Goal 4).
- Observance of World Water Day, on 22 March 2015 and 2016 (Goal 5).
- Participation in an international conference of cities, held in Dakar in February 2016, with a view to achieving Goal 11.
- Observance of the Day of the African Child, on 16 June each year from 2013 to 2016 in Dakar (Goal 5).
- Observance of International Women’s Day on 8 March each year in eight parts of the country (Goal 5).

### **3. Association de solidarité, aide et action enfance Mali “ASAA/EM Jigiya Ton”**

#### **Special, 2013**

#### **Introduction**

The Association de solidarité, aide et action enfance Mali “ASAA/EM Jigiya Ton” is a multilateral non-governmental development organization that helps to eradicate poverty and to reduce inequality and exclusion. The association helps countries to formulate policies, develop leadership and partnership skills, build institutional capacity and share solutions to problems related to the following issues: sustainable development; democratic governance; and climate and adaptation. In all its activities, the association encourages the protection of human rights and promotes the active participation of women.

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The aims of the organization are: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; promoting a culture of peace through equitable justice; promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment; providing high-quality education to children; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; improving maternal health; reducing infant mortality; and supporting the implementation of a global partnership for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

#### **Significant changes in the organization**

Two major changes in the organization have been the accession of new members and the signature of a cooperation agreement with the organization Femmes en Danger, an NGO composed of women of the African diaspora living in France, most of whom are from the Central African Republic. The organization will work with Femmes en Danger on a major project whose objective is the care and reintegration of women victims of conflict.

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

The association is exploring new aspects of the establishment and protection of human rights standards across a wide range of themes and issues. It provides legal and practical advice and undertakes empirical studies; organizes discussions and consultations on issues relating to the MDGs; and seeks to build partnerships on specific issues with a range of stakeholders in the social sphere to promote best practices. Its areas of activity include: the fight against discrimination; women and children; climate change and the environment; economic, social and cultural rights, including the rights to health, housing, food and water; countering violence;

HIV/AIDS; country assessments and planning in the field of human rights; and human rights and business.

#### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization has participated in many United Nations meetings since obtaining consultative status, including those of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, the Commission on the Status of Women, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization collaborates with the Office of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in Mali.

#### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

The achievement of the organization's goals falls within the context of the achievement of the MDGs. To that end, the organization has worked and continues to work on conflict management in Mali and on combating violence against women. It also devotes attention to the following issues: the fight against discrimination; women and children; climate change and the environment; economic, social and cultural rights, including the rights to health, housing, food and water; countering violence; HIV/AIDS; country assessments and planning in the field of human rights; and human rights and business.

### **4. Centre d'études diplomatiques et stratégiques**

#### **Special, 2005**

##### **Introduction**

The Centre d'études diplomatiques et stratégiques (CEDS) is a centre for the training of diplomats and decision makers, as well as a forum for research and practical expertise on international policy issues.

##### **Objectives**

The objective of the Centre is to contribute to the development of countries in Africa, South Asia and Latin America. It is a forum for research and discussion that focuses on two main areas: the international system (including the United Nations system) and development assistance.

##### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The activities of CEDS are aimed at enhancing knowledge and understanding of the United Nations system. Many seminars are devoted to this topic, such as the lectures organized at the École de guerre in December 2013, February 2014, April 2015 and February 2016, and the internal lectures offered every May and June at the Centre. In February 2014, February 2015 and January 2016, exercises focusing on negotiation in the context of United Nations institutions are led by experts who have performed leadership roles at the United Nations. Every year, the review published by the Centre, *Enjeux diplomatiques et stratégiques*, contains a section entitled "Vie

des Nations Unies” (Life of the United Nations). Research studies on United Nations peacekeeping operations and the reform of the Organization have been defended or published.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The Centre participated in the annual meetings of the General Assembly from September to December each year from 2013 to 2016, the meetings of the United Nations Office at Geneva in 2015 and 2016, and the meetings of the Human Rights Council in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization develops courses and seminars with the Economic and Social Council, the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the General Assembly, the Security Council, OHCHR and the United Nations Office at Geneva.

The Centre participated in the expert meeting on climate change and human rights organized in Geneva by OHCHR and the signatories of the Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action on 6 and 7 October 2016. It also participated in the fifty-third session of the Committee against Torture, held from 3 to 28 November 2014. In June 2016, the Centre organized and participated in two side events on the rights of minorities and indigenous people.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

From June 2013 to June 2014, the Centre contributed to the fulfilment of Millennium Development Goal 8 (global partnership for development). Twelve training sessions were conducted, covering such topics as diplomacy in the service of development, with a focus on Africa, the Middle East and Latin America.

The Centre has participated in the high-level political forum on sustainable development and has included in the curriculum for one of its courses the topic of monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 169 targets and 230 indicators. The relevant course, which was offered in 2015 and 2016, is also designed to provide guidance and recommendations to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, monitor progress towards the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and foster the development of coherent policies based on reliable scientific data and lessons learned from countries.

## **5. Collectif des femmes africaines du Hainaut**

### **Special, 2013**

#### **Introduction**

The Collectif des femmes Africaines du Hainaut is a group of immigrant women from sub-Saharan Africa; its main aims are to promote their involvement and participation in the development of their host country and countries of origin, to help them escape the isolation that accompanies migration, and to combat the racism and discrimination that they face. Thanks to its consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the organization has been able to conduct advocacy initiatives with public authorities and build networks at the national and international levels.

## **Objectives**

The organization aims to foster and promote the involvement of women in development through activities and advocacy measures aimed at strengthening gender and racial equality and the empowerment of women migrants.

## **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The organization participated in the following meetings:

- High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, New York, 3–4 October 2013.
- Twenty-fifth regular session of the Human Rights Council at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, 7 March 2014, at which it held a side event.
- Twenty-seventh regular session of the Human Rights Council, at which it held a side event, 15 September 2014.
- Forum held by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women in advance of the Beijing+20 Regional Review organized by ECE, Geneva, 3–5 November 2014.
- Fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixty-first sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York, 10–21 March 2014, 9–20 March 2015 and 13–24 March 2017, respectively. The organization submitted a written statement at the fifty-ninth session.

## **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization participated in several meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

## **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization cooperates with the following bodies: OHCHR; the Office of the Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination, established by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States; the Office of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the World Health Organization; the International Organization for Migration; and UN-Women.

## **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

The organization has conducted several field activities aimed at combating racism, promoting gender equality and empowering women:

- A mentorship project designed to promote access by migrant women to decision-making positions
- An anti-racism initiative focused on the concept of plural identity
- An African culture festival
- An international conference at the European Parliament on the intersection of international agendas on migrant women, organized in partnership with the UN-Women Liaison Office to the European Union in Brussels on 20 November 2014.



## **6. International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples**

**Special, 1953**

### **Introduction**

The International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples is a federation of groups and individuals working to promote understanding, dialogue and cooperation among races, peoples and cultural groups, in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It provides training and information on matters related to human rights and advocacy in international forums and organizes meetings and seminars on topics related to its objectives.

### **Objectives**

The federation's priorities are combating all forms of exclusion and racism and protecting the most vulnerable groups, in particular women, children, indigenous peoples, minorities and migrants.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

The organization has adopted a new name: United for Equity and Ending Racism/Uni(e)s pour l'Équité et la Fin du Racisme (UFER).

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

Each year, at the session of the Commission on the Status of Women, UFER, alongside other NGOs, organizes a programme that gives girls and young women from different countries the opportunity to familiarize themselves in situ with the work of the Commission and to develop strategies for the implementation in their own countries of the recommendations and resolutions adopted by the Commission. One of the organization's priorities is combating human trafficking. Panels on that topic were organized at the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women and at the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council, and a seminar on the matter was held in Nepal in cooperation with local NGOs in 2014. UFER also presented a study entitled "Conseil des droits de l'homme — Convergences, divergences, et résistances" ("The Human Rights Council — Convergence, Divergence and Resistance") on the margins of the twenty-fourth session of the Council.

During the UFER General Assembly in 2015, the organization held a seminar on migration, refugees and human trafficking, during which participants were informed of the work of the United Nations in those areas. Through the UFER newsletter and website, members and associates are informed of the activities of the United Nations in various fields, including human rights, the rights of women and girls, the rights of indigenous peoples, racial discrimination and the environment.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

UFER has participated in the following meetings:

- Sessions of the Human Rights Council
- Sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women
- Sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
- Some sessions of the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council

- The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, New York, 22–23 September 2014
- The Beijing+20 Regional Review Meeting, held by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in 2014
- Various briefings, consultations and commemorations

UFER has also co-signed of a number of oral and written statements.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

No information provided.

#### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

With a view to fulfilling Millennium Development Goal 2, UFER continues to implement its preschool education programme in Cambodia. The programme is designed to help mostly Vietnamese children from underprivileged backgrounds to better integrate into the Cambodian educational system and live peacefully alongside Khmer children. Since the programme's inception, other NGOs have opened schools in various villages and have benefited from the teacher training provided by members of UFER. A similar programme has been established in India.

### **7. International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education**

#### **Special, 1989**

##### **Introduction**

The International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEL) was established in 1985 by 40 political figures, education experts and parents of students. OIDEL has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, UNESCO and the Council of Europe. It also collaborates with the European Union and many international NGOs.

##### **Objectives**

The organization seeks to promote the right to education and freedom of education in accordance with the principles of article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

##### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

OIDEL focuses on the protection of human rights. It coordinates two NGO platforms: one on the right to education, comprising 35 NGOs; and another on human rights education, consisting of 53 members. OIDEL has worked closely with the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, with whom it has held periodic meetings and on whose reports it has presented feedback during plenary sessions of the Human Rights Council. The organization has collaborated with the Working Group on the Right to Development during the Group's annual sessions on development criteria. It also organized two side events in collaboration with the

Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity in 2015 and 2016 and submitted documents to assist her in preparing her draft declaration on the right to international solidarity.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

OIDEL participated in all sessions of the Human Rights Council during the reporting period; the sessions of the Working Group on the Right to Development; meetings of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2015; and the sixth session of the Forum on Minority Issues in 2013.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

OIDEL co-organized a round table on global citizenship with the Permanent Missions of Senegal and Mexico in the context of the Secretary-General's Global Education First Initiative in 2013, as well as a seminar on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights with the Permanent Mission of Portugal and the Special Rapporteur on the right to education in 2015. It also organized a side event with the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training on the anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training in 2015.

In 2016, the NGO Platform on the Right to Education presented a written document containing five recommendations for furthering human rights education in the third phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education. In 2013, OIDEL published a compilation of international instruments related to the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures. It also collaborated with UNESCO in drafting The Right to Education — Law and Policy Review Guidelines in 2014. In addition, on the basis of paragraphs 3 and 4 of article 13 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, it published, in French and English, a freedom of education index that measures the role of civil society in advancing the right to education.

From 2013 to 2017, OIDEL participated in the Human Rights-Based Approach to Higher Education in the Maghreb (*Approche Basée sur les Droits dans l'Enseignement Supérieur au Maghreb*) project, developed in the context of the second phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

OIDEL has taken an active part in the post-2015 process, in particular in the area of education, through the preparation in 2014 of a position paper on the role of the right to education in development objectives, which was distributed to all diplomatic missions. It also held an event and issued a publication in 2016 entitled "Education 2030: Le rôle de la société civile" (Education 2030: the role of civil society). Between 2013 and 2016, it held five training sessions in French and Spanish on the human-rights based approach and the post-2015 development framework through the Collège Universitaire Henry Dunant foundation, which were attended by more than 200 participants from Africa, Asia and Europe.

## **8. Les rencontres du Mont-Blanc — Forum international de l'économie sociale**

**Special, 2013**

### **Introduction**

As part of a plural economy and on every continent, Les rencontres du Mont-Blanc — Forum international de l'économie sociale promotes and develops social and solidarity economy.

### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

Since 2005, the organization's international network has been engaged in a cross-cutting mission as a true think tank in three areas of action. The first area is bringing together social and solidarity economy leaders and actors to foster the sharing of good practices, discussion of the critical international challenges and the joint formulation of innovative solutions. To that end, it organizes a biennial forum and takes part in numerous national and international meetings. The second area of action is co-building sustainable and inclusive projects and initiatives. Recognition of social and solidarity economy occurs also and above all through the promotion of its sustainable and inclusive initiatives and solutions. In that regard, the organization runs an international collaboration platform called "project place" and maintains a record of initiatives. Lastly, its third area of work is influencing policies and international agendas in favour of social and solidarity economy. Thanks to its special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the organization works on the sidelines of major international meetings to promote social and solidarity economy. It was thus a driving force behind the establishment of the International Leading Group of Social and Solidarity Economy, of which it is the co-secretariat, and is an observer member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

The organization changed its name to ESS Forum International on 25 January 2017.

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

Established in 2014 on the initiative of the President of the French Republic, the International Leading Group of Social and Solidarity Economy brings together States, international organizations and civil society organizations. Taking its inspiration from the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development, it is a unique platform for discussing and sharing best practices on social and solidarity economy in order to promote, encourage and implement public policies at the local, national and international levels. ESS Forum International serves as the permanent secretariat.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

ESS Forum International organized the following meetings:

- Side event entitled "Social and solidarity economy: changing economic relations for equality and sustainable development in the post-2015 agenda", eighth session of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, New York, 4 February 2014.

- “The implementation of public policies for the social and solidarity economy” and “The promotion and support of the social and solidarity economy enterprises in the world”, first meeting of the International Leading Group of Social and Solidarity Economy, sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, New York, 22 September 2014.
- Side event entitled “Social and solidarity economy for better financing of sustainable development in the post-2015 agenda”, third International Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa, 13 July 2015.
- “What measures would support social and solidarity economy as part of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals?”, second meeting of the International Leading Group of Social and Solidarity Economy, seventieth session of the General Assembly, New York, 28 September 2015.
- “Social and solidarity economy: a key sector for sustainable urban development”, third meeting of the International Leading Group of Social and Solidarity Economy, seventy-first session of the General Assembly, New York, 20 September 2016.
- Side event entitled “Social and solidarity economy: a key sector to implement the New Urban Agenda”, United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), Quito, 17 October 2016.

#### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

ESS Forum International is an observer member of the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy.

#### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

The Sustainable Development Goals guide all of the organization’s activities, both in the initiatives it promotes or co-creates and in the advocacy events it organizes.

## **9. Organisation de défense de l’environnement au Burundi**

### **Special, 2005**

#### **Introduction**

The Organisation de défense de l’environnement au Burundi was established in 1992 and helps raise public awareness of the importance of environmental protection.

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The organization’s vision is of a verdant landscape whose fauna, flora and water resources are effectively conserved and managed and where a regular climate ensures the population’s well-being in a sustainable manner. The organization’s mission consists in: raising awareness of the urgent need for sustainable protection of ecosystems; tirelessly urging the political and administrative authorities to promote policies and implement in practice the laws on environmental protection; supporting population groups that take initiatives aimed at environmentally sustainable development and adopt measures for adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change; advocating good land governance; and prompting all those concerned with sustainable water-resource management to understand and assume their responsibilities.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The organization has contributed to the mission of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies by monitoring implementation of the three Rio Conventions, namely the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification. In that regard, it attended a number of meetings preparatory to the various conferences on climate change held in Paris, as well as those on biodiversity and desertification.

The organization has regularly observed the various international days dedicated to the environment, biodiversity and combating desertification. It has contributed technically and financially to the activities of World Environment Day and World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought. It participated in the workshop to approve the provisional report of the country environmental analysis, in the workshop organized by the Kilimo Trust on the subject of the WaLETS (water, land, ecosystems and trade in staples) project, and in the workshop on forest landscape restoration in Burundi that took place within the framework of the Bonn Convention.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization took part in preparatory meetings at the national level aimed at establishing the parameters of Climateprediction.net (CPDN) for the Paris climate conference in 2015.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

In Burundi, the organization participated in the workshop on the Global Environment Facility organized by the United Nations Development Programme. Since 2016, the organization has been implementing a capacity-building project on adaptation to climate change in partnership with Welthungerhilfe and has collaborated with the World Bank on identifying high-risk areas in Burundi.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

The organization contributed to the attainment of Millennium Development Goal 1 by supporting cash-for-work measures in the area of watershed protection through seedling production and planting and payment for labour, thus providing income to more than 4,570 households for a period of six months or one year.

With regard to Millennium Development Goal 7, intensive awareness-raising and advocacy activities were undertaken, particularly in connection with updating the land code and the water code. The organization has contributed to environmental conservation by producing and planting 2,710,000 forest and agro-forestry seedlings.

## **10. Organisation des laïcs engagés du Sacré-Cœur pour le développement de Kimbond**

**Special, 2013**

### **Introduction**

This Kinshasa-based non-governmental organization is accredited as a civil society observer to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The aims of the organization are sustainable social development, environmental protection, and promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources and of human rights.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

The organization changed its name to Organisation des laïcs engagés pour le développement durable in 2012.

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

The organization has contributed to various activities relating to the agendas of the United Nations conferences in which it has participated. From 2013 to 2016, its projects aimed to:

- Promote sustainable social development in line with the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Promote environmental protection and the sustainable use of natural resources in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Promote human rights in accordance with international law.
- Promote peacebuilding in accordance with the White Paper on Peacebuilding.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization participated in the following meetings:

- Nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Warsaw, 11–22 November 2013.
- Fortieth session of the subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Bonn, 4–15 June 2014.
- Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Seoul, 29 September to 17 October 2014.
- Eighteenth session of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Canada, 16–28 June 2014.
- Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai, Japan, 14–18 March 2015.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

No information provided.

**Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

No information provided.

## **11. Organisation mondiale des associations pour l'éducation prénatale**

### **Special, 2005**

#### **Introduction**

This federation-type organization consists of 20 prenatal education associations active in 17 countries and on three continents.

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The organization aims to raise awareness of the importance of natural prenatal education as the foundation of parenthood and as a key factor in physical and mental health, which will contribute to the development of more humane and just societies.

#### **Significant changes in the organization**

The organization has three new associations — in Austria, Cameroon and Germany.

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

The organization has submitted written contributions to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly advocating the incorporation of two new paragraphs into the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which is the written document on children's rights. It submitted a proposal to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) regarding education and the empowerment of women in 2013. It also participated in and submitted a proposal to the fourth public symposium organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on 24 and 25 June 2013.

It provided training in prenatal education and communication to leaders of Belgian and Congolese non-governmental organizations at the Geneva Welcome Centre (CAGI) in 2014. On 10 November 2014, it organized an international symposium on sustainable development and the new paradigm in conjunction with the NGO Coalition in Geneva.

#### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization has participated in the following meetings:

- Universal Children's Day to celebrate the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 2013.
- Session of the Economic and Social Council, Palais des Nations, Geneva, July 2013, including the submission of a written statement to the high-level segment on 5–10 July 2013.
- Meeting on protection and human rights, Palais Wilson, Geneva, 25 April 2013.
- International conference on a new paradigm, Geneva, 6 June 2013.



- World Investment Forum of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 13–16 October 2014, at which it made a statement.
- Children’s Summit on the Sustainable Development Goals, 20 September 2015.
- Commission on the Status of Women, 14–24 March 2016, to which it submitted a statement regarding the United Kingdom initiative entitled “1001 Critical Days”.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

The organization participated in the eleventh World Family Summit, which was organized by the World Family Organization and the Minister of Health of China and held in Zhuhai, China in 2013. It contributed to the preparation of a document on the post-2015 United Nations agenda. It participated in the 2013 edition of the Global Prenatal Initiative, which was a partnership project launched under the auspices of the International Year of the Family. The organization met the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva through the NGO Liaison Unit in Geneva on 9 April and 23 May 2013. It has partnered with a ministry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, non-governmental organizations and UNCTAD officials.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

The organization has contributed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by providing an international framework of good practices for prenatal awareness based on the “1001 Critical Days” model and the Women’s Empowerment Principles: Equality Means Business. It conducted a training project in 2016 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in conjunction with the Ministry for Women. In 2013, it ran a one-day workshop at a health centre in Huangshan, Taiping Lake, at the invitation of the National School of Nursing of Chongqing, China. On 8 March 2015, the organization took part in the march organized by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in New York.

## **12. Regards de femmes**

### **Special, 2009**

#### **Introduction**

Regards de femmes brings together women and men to take action in all areas of women’s rights on the basis of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international conventions (the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Sustainable Development Goals, among others).

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

Regards de femmes endeavours to provide information and raise awareness of issues related to women’s rights among United Nations programmes, institutions, the media, other organizations and the general public, through press releases, two websites, Facebook and Twitter, in order to encourage change in behaviour and practices to achieve gender equality in rights, duties and dignity.

**Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

Regards de femmes organizes, participates in and addresses international symposiums and conferences in Lyon, France, and around the world, on issues addressed by UN-Women:

- Economic empowerment: presentation entitled “New social dialogue to reduce gender inequality in business beyond 2015” at the Centre européen de recherche et de prospective politique symposium held at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 20 October 2015;
- Violence against women: participation in the meetings entitled “Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking”, held in Geneva on 7 November 2014, and “Partners for universal access to contraception” held by the Ouagadougou Partnership in Paris on 18 December 2014; staging of a side event during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women entitled “Actions to reject all violence or discrimination against women and girls in the name of customs or religion”, held in New York on 10 March 2015; holding of a “Bring back our girls” rally in Lyon on 13 May 2014; continued activism, awareness-raising meetings, press releases and media interviews between 2014 and 2016;
- Girls’ education: international symposium entitled “Girls’ education: to make progress, obstacles in France and the rest of the world must be removed”, held in Vénissieux, France, on 5 October 2014;
- Leadership and participation: remarks on political parity delivered to the Saarland parliament in Germany on 18 November 2013 and Ankara University in Turkey on 6 and 7 January 2015; symposium entitled “No democratic governance without women” held in Geneva on 7 September 2015; conference entitled “Women are getting involved”, in the context of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris on 16 October 2015; African Association of Women for Research and Development symposium on “Civic rights and empowerment of women: obstacles and challenges in Africa”, held in Dakar from 7 to 9 December 2015;
- Human rights, peace and security: Participation in the NGO consultation meeting on the implementation of the second national plan of action of France on women, peace and security, held in Paris on 9 December 2014; international symposium entitled “Secularism as a force and a shield for women” held in Lyon on 13 October 2014; Summit of la Francophonie on “Women and young people in French-speaking countries: vectors of peace, stakeholders in development”, held in Dakar from 26 to 28 June 2014.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The organization took part in the fifty-seventh, fifty-eighth, fifty-ninth and sixtieth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York on 3–10 March 2013, 9–16 March 2014, 9–15 March 2015 and 12–21 March 2016 respectively. It contributed written statements to each session and held the following side events: “Sharing of good practices to facilitate birth registration”, fifty-seventh session, 4 March 2013; “Strengthening the rights of women regarding birth registration”, fifty-eighth session, 12 March 2014; and “Birth registration as a

prerequisite for the empowerment of women”, sixtieth session, 14 and 20 March 2016.

In addition, the organization participated in the ECE regional meeting on the 20-year review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, held in Geneva from 4 to 7 November 2014, and the sixty-fifth Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations, held in New York on 28 August 2014, during which it held a side event entitled “Access to development for all depends on birth registration for every child”. Lastly, the organization drafted an alternative report to coincide with the consideration of the periodic report of France by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which took place on 3, 4, 7 and 8 July in Geneva.

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

Regards de femmes moderated the “Women and violence” group and led the summary of the discussions for a UNESCO meeting entitled “Global ethics and opportunities: women’s contribution to the development of Europe and the Mediterranean”, held from 11 to 14 September 2014 in Turin, Italy. The organization was invited to speak on the issue of birth registration at the Regional Ministerial Meeting on Statelessness in West Africa held by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on 23 and 24 February in Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

Regards de femmes participated in the preparatory meetings on the Sustainable Development Goals organized by France. On the issue of the right of every child to civil registration, it held an international symposium entitled “Children with no civil status, women with no rights”, with statements delivered by UN-Women and the United Nations Development Programme, that took place in Bourg-en-Bresse, France, on 12 October 2013.

## **13. Reporters sans frontières international**

### **Special, 1993**

#### **Introduction**

Founded in 1985, Reporters sans frontières international is an independent organization that promotes freedom of the press. Based in Paris, the organization’s foreign sections, bureaux in 10 cities and network of correspondents in 130 countries enable it to mobilize support, challenge Governments and wield influence both on the ground and in ministries and international and regional organizations.

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The aims and purposes of the organization are to defend journalists and news providers and expose the oppression they face; champion freedom of the press and freedom of expression; support journalists and news providers; and take action to improve the safety of journalists.

#### **Significant changes in the organization**

There have been no significant changes.

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

The organization has contributed to the work of the Human Rights Council on the following issues:

- Twenty-second session: journalists killed in 2012;
- Twenty-fourth session: shortcomings in the protection of journalists and news providers, the critical situation of journalists in the Syrian Arab Republic, the safety of journalists, 13 principles for a state surveillance framework, the need to protect whistle-blowers, and the safety of journalists;
- Twenty-fifth session: worsening of the situation for journalists during peaceful protests, whistle-blowers;
- Twenty-sixth session: business and human rights — mercenaries of the digital age, safety of journalists, importance of an independent judiciary for free access to information, persecution in Bahrain;
- Twenty-eighth session: the increased risk of reporting on protests, counter-terrorism and respect for freedom of information, news providers as the first line of defence for human rights defenders, the state of the world's press, call for the creation of the post of Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy;
- Twenty-ninth session: extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions of journalists, use of blasphemy laws to stifle freedom of expression;
- Thirtieth session: safety of journalists and impunity;
- Thirty-first session: torture and abuse of journalists and bloggers;
- Thirty-second session: state of press freedom in Turkey.

Reporters sans frontières international contributed to the following universal periodic reviews:

- Fifteenth session: Review of Israel;
- Sixteenth session: Review of Azerbaijan, Russian Federation;
- Seventeenth session: Review of Malaysia, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Mexico, China;
- Eighteenth session: Review of Eritrea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Chile, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Viet Nam;
- Nineteenth session: Review of Equatorial Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia;
- Twentieth session: Review of Gambia, Madagascar, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Fiji, Kazakhstan, Egypt;
- Twenty-first session: Review of Rwanda, Kuwait, Turkey;
- Twenty-third session: Review of Rwanda;
- Twenty-fourth session: Review of Somalia, Singapore;
- Twenty-fifth session: Review of Sudan;
- Twenty-seventh session: Review of Brazil, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Tunisia, Algeria, Poland, Bahrain, Morocco.

The organization sent a letter about attacks on journalists covering protests to the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association. It raised the issue of enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention and

disappeared journalists with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

Reporters sans frontières international participated in the following meetings:

- Participation as a panellist in a side event on Burundi during the thirty-first session of the Human Rights Council;
- Participation as a panellist in a side event on the safety of journalists in the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and Yemen during the thirty-third session of the Human Rights Council;
- Statement delivered by the Director-General of the organization to the United Nations Security Council on 27 May 2015, welcoming the adoption of Council resolution 2222 (2015) on the protection of journalists in armed conflict;
- Participation in a UNESCO conference entitled “News organizations standing up for the safety of media professionals”, held on 5 February 2016;
- Participation in a panel during a UNESCO conference on protecting cultural heritage, held in Brussels on 9 June 2016;
- Participation in a panel on mechanisms for protecting journalists during a UNESCO conference organized for World Press Freedom Day, held in Helsinki on 3 May 2016;

### **Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

Reporters sans frontières international met the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, on 21 June 2016 to discuss the safety of journalists.

In addition, the organization contributed to the annual report of the Secretary-General on the application of General Assembly resolution 68/163 by Member States, in May 2014, and the report of the Secretary-General on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity (A/70/290), in May 2015.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

No activities were specified.

## **14. Rescue and Hope**

### **Special, 2013**

#### **Introduction**

Rescue and Hope is a not-for-profit NGO established in June 2006 in Benin. It works in seven of the country’s departments and contributes to the welfare and socioeconomic and sanitary development of vulnerable segments of the population and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It works in the fields of health, education, agriculture, training and job placement, young people and sustainable development, sanitation, environmental and climate protection, and protection of women’s and children’s rights through training, awareness-raising and advocacy.

**Aims and purposes of the organization**

The aims and purposes of the organization are to contribute to poverty reduction and the socioeconomic, sanitary and cultural development of grass-roots communities. Primarily, the organization provides effective support to individuals and grass-roots groups in identifying, developing and managing concerted actions aimed at improving their living conditions and fostering development. The ultimate aim of such efforts is to ensure the overall empowerment of the majority of grass-roots populations, improve the leadership skills of female leaders, uphold the rights of women and children, increase purchasing power, and raise public awareness of the need for the communities concerned to take responsibility in order to achieve sustainable human development.

**Significant changes in the organization**

In terms of change at the national level, the organization joined two networks of associations in Benin, which led it to expand its activities in the fields of the protection of women's and children's rights, female leadership and economic capacity-building for rural women in two additional departments in Benin. At the regional level, the organization joined the African Community of Practice on Managing for Development Results and the Partnership of Civil Society Organizations for the Efficiency of Development in West Africa. In both, the organization has been active in efforts to develop proposals for planning and monitoring goals to ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of development results.

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

From November to December 2014, Rescue and Hope, acting on behalf of Réseau des organisations féminines d'Afrique francophone, of which it is a member, engaged in national advocacy and awareness-raising activities on the post-2015 agenda, on the theme "Gender in the post-2015 development agenda", which were aimed at the Government and civil society organizations working on gender issues. Since December 2015, it has held three national information days on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the implications for sustainable human development in Benin.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

No participation was specified.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies**

Rescue and Hope worked with the project manager of the United Nations Children's Fund in Benin.

**Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

The activities of Rescue and Hope are intended to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the following areas:

- Health: in 2016 and 2017, in partnership with the RAOFEM network, the organization carried out a project on HIV/AIDS entitled "Prevention of gender-based violence among key populations: sex workers and injecting drug users", funded by The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in eight departments of Benin;

- Gender equality: in January 2015 the organization began a three-year project to strengthen the economic and institutional capacities of 32 groups of rural women and girls in the Toffo, Zè and Djidja communes (450 young people and 1,050 women);
- Promotion of economic growth: the organization established training and food processing centres to help struggling communities in the communes of Toffo, in the south, and Djougou, in the north.
- Environmental protection and efforts to combat climate change: since April 2011, the organization has held an annual training week on permaculture, the creation of a sustainable ecosystem and combating soil erosion for young pupils and students during the school holidays.

## **15. Villes de France**

### **Special, 2013**

#### **Introduction**

Villes de France is a pluralist French association composed of local elected officials (mayors and presidents of inter-communal bodies). Legally and financially independent from the French State, this non-governmental organization comprises cities and towns smaller than métropoles throughout the national territory, where nearly half of the French population, or approximately 32 million people, live. It seeks to promote and support the action of more than 600 French cities and 300 inter-communal bodies.

#### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

The association Villes de France supports projects dealing with local governance, economic development and sustainable development, as well as the actions of decentralized international cooperation led by its members. In general, the organization promotes local democracy, sustainable development and international cooperation among local communities.

#### **Significant changes in the organization**

In June 2014, the general assembly of the organization formally approved a name change. The association formerly known as the “Fédération des villes moyennes” would henceforth be called “Villes de France”; the organization’s by-laws were amended accordingly. The name change was duly recorded by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in May 2016.

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

In the context of a partnership with the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe, Villes de France prepared a handbook entitled “Cooperation in motion!”, several thousand copies of which were distributed. Officially developed under the umbrella of the Millennium Development Goals, this handbook promoted a number of specific international cooperation actions launched by cities and selected for their exemplary nature. In particular, this publication was able to highlight the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its strategic priorities, including a presentation of the International Hydrological Programme of the United Nations.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

During the reporting period, Villes de France participated in the annual meetings of the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva with non-governmental organizations.

From 27 January to 7 February 2014, Villes de France attended the eighteenth session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, in particular to monitor the countries with which certain Villes de France members have decentralized cooperation partnerships.

On 7 and 8 July 2014, reflecting its particular interest in the theme for the high-level political forum on sustainable development chosen by the United Nations Economic and Social Council for 2014, the organization submitted a written contribution to thoughts on the future of the post-2015 global development agenda.

Villes de France participated in the working groups leading up to the 7th World Urban Forum of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in Medellín (Colombia) from 5 to 11 April 2014, and to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito (Ecuador), from 17 to 20 October 2016.

Villes de France actively followed the proceedings of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2015. The organization was also represented at the Climate Summit for Local Leaders on 4 December 2015 in Paris (France), an event attended by mayoral delegations from all over the world.

**Cooperation with United Nations system entities**

Villes de France has helped to publicize in the territorial collectivities the call for projects in the context of the Thematic and Territorial Human Development Networks Support Programme) of the United Nations Development Programme in 2014 and 2015.

The organization regularly reports to territorial collectivities on the work of the United Nations, and especially of the Economic and Social Council, via topical articles in its weekly magazine “Ondes Urbaines” (which has 15,000 subscribers) and in particular in articles in the following issues: 13 March 2013, 5 February 2014, 14 May 2014, 18 May 2016, 21 May 2014, 16 July 2014, 12 November 2014, 4 February 2015, 5 October 2016 and 7 September 2016.

**Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

The work of Villes de France with its network is aligned with a number of United Nations priorities, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goals 7 and 8 (to ensure environmental sustainability and to develop a global partnership for development).

**16. Yelen****Special, 2013****Introduction**

Yelen is a non-governmental organization active locally and internationally. It works for the integration of immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa in the Genevois region of France, trains social actors (social workers, educators, mayors' offices,



hospitals, etc.) in intercultural affairs and runs decentralized cooperation activities between the community of communes of the Bas-Chablais and the rural community of Ndande in Senegal.

### **Aims and purposes of the organization**

Yelen aims to contribute to development efforts, as well as to all activities directly or indirectly related to them. It also seeks to contribute to the personal economic, social and cultural development of persons with difficulties accessing common law mechanisms in these countries, particularly immigrants and displaced persons.

### **Significant changes in the organization**

The association's activity throughout the Genevois region has greatly increased because of the migration crisis. Its work in Senegal has likewise multiplied and diversified to include waste management, sanitation, environment, and health. In addition, since 2013, the association has been part of the Cité de la Solidarité Internationale in Annemasse, France.

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

Yelen organized a session for awareness-raising and the dissemination of information on Ebola, in partnership with the World Health Organization. The association is part of the network "Réseau des Acteurs de la Solidarité Internationale" in Annemasse and works on waste and water issues. It has conducted a study on water problems in Darou, Senegal, in partnership with the organizations Women Engage for a Common Future and InterSolidar.

### **Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

The association has participated in meetings, symposia and conferences.

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

Yelen has organized a meeting on migrant rights scheduled to take place in 2017 in collaboration with AIDES, Destination Justice, Groupe SIDA Genève, the International Organization for Migration, the Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations, and the Cité de la Solidarité Internationale of Annemasse.

### **Initiatives taken by the organization in support of the Sustainable Development Goals**

Yelen took the following initiatives in support of the Millennium Development Goals:

- Goal 1: A project was launched to help women in Ndande, Senegal, by providing micro-credit for the cultivation of bissap with a view to increasing their income;
- Goal 2: 3,000 books were delivered to Ndande to establish a local library;
- Goal 3: Ndande women's groups were supported through training, education, awareness-raising, and opening of bank accounts;
- Goals 4, 5 and 6: Health workers in Kebemer district in Senegal were given training and information; and awareness-raising campaigns were conducted at health centres; and

- Goal 7: Waste management was enhanced with the establishment of a centre for sorting and reclaiming the waste collected by young people and women in the village. Yelen organized the inauguration of the Ndande sorting centre with a conference on the cross-cutting themes of water and land.
-