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SPECIFIC GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report supplements and updates as at 18 November 2003 the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the status of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of 22 August 2003 (A/58/306) which will be available at the sixtieth session of the Commission on Human Rights. The report contains the recommendations of the eighth session of the Board of Trustees of the Fund in 2003 which were approved by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General on 3 February 2003, including the list of project and travel grants recommended, the new guidelines adopted by the Board at that session, and relevant statistics on the amount of applications received and approved as well as on contributions received. Relevant information is also included on the implementation of those recommendations. The present report also updates the previous report of the Secretary-General to the Commission (E/CN.4/2003/83 of 30 December 2002 and E/CN.4/2003/83/Add.1 of 26 February 2003).

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I. MANDATE OF THE FUND

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991, established the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery with the purpose of extending humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals whose human rights have been violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery (project grants) and assisting representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from different regions that deal with issues of contemporary forms of slavery to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery by providing them with financial assistance (travel grants). Funding is obtained by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, NGOs, other private or public entities and individuals.

II. ADMINISTRATION AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2. In conformity with the above-mentioned resolution, the Fund is administered in accordance with the relevant financial regulations and rules of the United Nations on general trust funds for humanitarian assistance, by the Secretary-General, through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), with the advice of a Board of Trustees.

3. The Board is composed of five United Nations experts with relevant experience in the field of human rights and, in particular, issues of contemporary forms of slavery, serving in their personal capacities. In October 2001 the Secretary-General appointed the following members for a three-year renewable term ending on 31 December 2004, in consultation with the current Chairman of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution: Swami Agnivesh (India); Theo van Boven (Netherlands); Cheikh Saad-Bouh Kamara (Mauritania); Tatiana Matveeva (Russian Federation); and José de Souza Martins (Brazil).

III. BENEFICIARIES

4. In accordance with the selection criteria adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122, the beneficiaries of assistance from the Fund shall be: (a) individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery; and (b) representatives from NGOs dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery who would not, in the opinion of the Board, be able to attend the session of the Working Group without the assistance provided by the Fund and who would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge on the part of the Working Group of the problems relating to contemporary forms of slavery.

IV. GRANTS CYCLE

5. The deadline for submitting applications for travel or project grants was 15 September 2003. Admissible applications received will be examined by the Board at its next session, scheduled to take place in Geneva from 26 to 30 January 2004. The recommendations for grants adopted by the Board at that session will be submitted for approval to the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on behalf of the Secretary-General. The grants approved should be paid in February/March 2004. Beneficiaries of travel grants will attend the session of the Working Group, scheduled to take place in Geneva in June 2004.

Beneficiaries of project grants will have to provide to the secretariat of the Fund narrative and financial reports on the use of their grants before 1 November 2004. Those organizations which can prove that it is impossible at that time to provide final reports will have to provide interim reports by 1 November 2004 and final reports by 1 January 2005. Until satisfactory reports on the use of previous grants are received, no new project grant can be paid to beneficiaries. Detailed information on the grants cycle is contained in document A/57/308 of 14 August 2002.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION

6. At its eighth session, in January 2003, the Board recommended 28 project grants for an amount of US\$ 130,920 and 8 travel grants for an amount of US\$ 21,995 to allow representatives of NGOs to participate in the twenty-eighth session of the Working Group, which took place in Geneva in June 2003 (for detailed information on these recommendations, including a list of beneficiaries of grants, see A/58/306). The above-mentioned project grants have been paid and the beneficiaries of travel grants participated in the Working Group.

VI. NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR THE NINTH SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

7. The ninth session of the Board is scheduled to take place in Geneva at OHCHR, Palais Wilson, from 26 to 30 January 2004.

8. In order to be able to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily and meet the increase in new applications received for 2004 the Board of Trustees of the Fund estimated at its eighth session that the Fund would need at least US\$ 300,000 before its ninth session in January 2004.

9. This sum includes the amount needed for travel and project grants, the annual session of the Board, programme support costs and an operating cash reserve. In accordance with the United Nations rules governing general trust funds for humanitarian assistance, such as this Fund, the above-mentioned amount includes 15 per cent of estimated annual expenditures which must be earmarked as a reserve for the following year, as well as 13 per cent of estimated annual expenditure for programme support costs.

10. At the time of drafting the present report, according to information available at OHCHR, the new contributions paid and registered by the United Nations Treasurer which are available for the ninth session are as follows:

Table 1**Contributions received from Governments as at 18 November 2003**

Country	Amount in US\$	Paid on
Botswana	500	13 May 2003
France	34 620	12 May 2003
Mauritius	3 000	24 March 2003
South Africa	5 847	1 April 2003
Subtotal	43 967	

Table 2**Contributions received from NGOs, other private and public entities and individuals as at 18 November 2003**

NGOs and individuals	Amount in US\$	Paid on
Students and teachers at the Instituto Oscar Romero, Italy	971	28 May 2003
Japanese Workers Committee for Human Rights	219	27 March 2003
Mr. Yorio Shiokawa	146	27 March 2003
	91	11 September 2003
Subtotal	1 427	
Grand total tables 1 + 2	45 394	

Table 3**Pledges made as at 18 November 2003**

Country	Amount in US\$	Pledged on
Japan	23 040	21 October 2003
Netherlands	52 817	3 May 2002
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	16 026	12 March 2003
Total	91 883	

11. New voluntary contributions should be paid by donors to the Fund by the end of 2003 in order to be duly recorded by the United Nations Treasurer in advance of the annual session of the Board. Contributions which cannot be recorded before the session of the Board will be carried over to the following year.

VII. FUND-RAISING

A. Resolutions

12. In its resolution 1999/46, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to transmit to Governments an appeal for voluntary contributions to the Fund.

13. In its resolution 2003/27, the Sub-Commission expressed its gratitude to those donor Governments, organizations, trade unions and individuals, including young students, who had contributed to the Fund and encouraged them to continue doing so. The Sub-Commission also recalled the appeal made by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122 to all Governments, NGOs, other private and public entities and individuals to contribute to the Fund and encouraged them to do so in order to enable the Fund to fulfil its mandate effectively in the year 2004.

B. Appeal for funds by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

14. As recommended by the Board of Trustees, the Acting High Commissioner for Human Rights sent a letter to all Governments on 7 October 2003 drawing their attention to the above-mentioned resolutions and appealing to them to contribute to the Fund, if possible before the Board's ninth session in January 2004 so that their contributions could be taken into consideration at that session when recommending travel and project grants.

VIII. HOW TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUND

15. Voluntary contributions to the Fund can be made by bank transfer to the "United Nations Geneva General Fund":

- In US Dollars and other currencies to: "United Nations Office at Geneva", account 485001802, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, New York, N.Y. 10004, USA - Swift code: CHASUS33;
- In euros and Sterling Pounds to: "United Nations Office at Geneva", account 23961 901, J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, London, P.O. Box 440, Wollgate House, Coleman Street, London, United Kingdom - Swift code: CHASGB2L;
- In Swiss Francs to: "United Nations Geneva General Fund", account 240-C0590160.0, UBS, Rue du Rhône 8, Geneva 2, Switzerland - Swift code: UBSWCHZH12A;

By cheque to the order of the "United Nations", addressed to: Trésorerie, Nations Unies, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 10, Suisse.

Please mention, in any case, in your payment order: "For the Slavery Fund, account SH".

IX. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

16. For any additional information about this Fund, please contact the Fund's secretariat, at RRDB, OHCHR, United Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; phone: (+41 22) 917 91 64 or 917 91 45; fax: 917 90 17; e-mail: emonsalve@ohchr.org/eortado-rosich@ohchr.org.

X. CONCLUSION

17. **As recommended by the Board of Trustees of the Fund at its eighth session and approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General, donors are invited to contribute to the Fund by the end of the year in order for the contributions to be duly recorded by the United Nations Treasurer in advance of the annual session of the Board. Contributions that cannot be recorded before the session of the Board will be considered at its next annual session.**

18. **In the Board's view, in order to be able to fulfil its mandate satisfactorily, the Fund would need at least US\$ 300,000 before the ninth session of the Board, scheduled to be held at the end of January 2004.**

19. **In its resolution 2003/27, the Sub-Commission encouraged donor Governments, organizations, trade unions and individuals, including young students, who had contributed to the Fund to continue doing so. The Sub-Commission also recalled the appeal made by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/122 to all Governments, NGOs, other private and public entities and individuals to contribute to the Fund and encouraged them to do so in order to enable the Fund to fulfil its mandate effectively in the year 2004.**
