

School Sisters of Notre Dame Special Consultative Status with ECOSOC granted 1998 Quadrennial Report—2002-2005

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Part I: Aims and Purposes of the Organization

The School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) is an international faith-based organization working in a wide variety of formal and non-formal education programs to ensure that all people enjoy the right to develop their potential and the opportunity to use their gifts for the common good. As educators with a world vision, the School Sisters of Notre Dame are especially sensitive to the needs of women, children, and those who live in impoverished conditions, as they strive to create a global community where human dignity is respected, the environment is treasured, spirituality is nourished, and justice is practiced. Working in thirty-five countries and two territories with thousands of associates, colleagues, students and friends, SSND has long supported the goals of the United Nations (UN) and the objectives outlined in the United Nations Millennium Development Goal (MDGs).

Part II: Participation in the Work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

In the period under review the School Sisters of Notre Dame made active use of the rights and privileges granted to it through its special consultative status with ECOSOC, particularly at meetings of the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women. Representatives of the organization participated in United Nations forums, events, commissions and conferences. SSND organized side-events and participated in multi-stake holder dialogues and made interventions at various UN meetings and sponsored in numerous events around the world in support of the goals and objectives of the UN.

The School Sisters of Notre Dame participated in the following UN meetings:

- **Economic and Social Council:**
 - ECOSOC High Level Segments: *Promoting Rural Development for Poverty*
 - *Eradication and Sustainable Development*, NY, 30 April 2003.
 - ECOSOC *Multi-State Holder Dialogue*, NY, 17-18 March 2004
 - *Preparatory Meeting* for the 2005 ECOSOC High-Level Segment, NY 16-17 March 2005
 - The director of the SSND UN/NGO Office spoke on the *Education and Literacy Round Table*, 16 March 2005
 - Remarks focused on the need for action regarding global commitments regarding education.

- **Commission for Social Development** (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005)
 - Edited *NGO Declaration for Action*, 8 February 2005
 - High Level Round Table, *Social Integration*, 10 February 2005, provided expert on girls' education.
 - Consistently presented written interventions to the Commission
 - E/CN.5/2003/NGO/2; E/CN.5/2003/NGO/10; E/CN.5/2003/NGO/11;
 - E/CN.5/2003/NGO/12; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/6; E/CN.5/2005/NGO/10;
 - E/CN.5/2005/NGO/11.

- **Commission on the Status of Women** (2002, 2003, 2004, 2005)
 - Provided leadership in the area of the girl-child
 - Chaired the Girls' Caucus (2004, 2005)
 - Provided testimony to the Commission in the form of written intervention,
 - E/CN.6/2003/NGO/2; E/CN.6/2003/NGO/20; E/CN.6/2004/NGO/13;
 - E/CN.6/2004/NGO/20; E/CN.6/2005/NGO/1; E/CN.6/2005/NGO/2;
 - E/CN.6/2005/NGO/3; E/CN.6/2005/NGO/44)

- **Commission on Human Rights** (2002, 2003)

- **Commission Sustainable Development** (2003, 2004)

- **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issue** (2002, 2003, 2004)
 - SSND in collaboration with the Working Group on Girls (WGG) organized a workshop which enabled indigenous girls to describe their role in their communities.

 - International Conference on Financing for Development, 18-22 March 2002, Monterrey.

- Co-sponsored preparatory seminar, *The Ethical Dimension of Financing for Development*, 5 March 2002, NY.
- **World Summit for Sustainable Development**, 26 August-4 September 2002. Johannesburg
- **World Summit on the Information Society**, 10-12 December 2003, Geneva
- **Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with NGOs**, 23-24 June 2005, New York
 - Submitted comments on the report of the Secretary-General, *In Larger Freedom*, that were quoted extensively in the compilation of comments published by the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service.
 - Contributed to two other publications for the 2005 five year review of the UN Millennium Declaration:
 - *We Will Spare No Effort*;
 - *Mobilizing for Change: Messages from Civil Society*.
- **UN Habitat—20th Session**, Nairobi, Kenya, 4-8 April 2005

Cooperation with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

- **UN Department of Public Information (DPI)**—SSND has been affiliated with DPI since 1993 and sent a full complement of delegates to the annual DPA? NGO Conference in each of the years in the period under review.
 - Organized, sponsored, and moderated DPI Conferences Mid-Day Workshop, “*Educating Girls: Key to Keeping MDG Promises*,” 8 September 2004.
 - Organized, sponsored, and moderated mid-day multi-stakeholder dialogue, *Building Education Partnerships to Provide Quality Education for Girls and Eradicate Poverty*, 8 September 2005.
- **United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and UNICEF Board**
 - Prepared education section of the NGO Committee on UNICEF statement to the UNICEF Board, June 2005.
 - NGO Committee on UNICEF’s Working Group on Girls, members 2002-2005
 - Edited and published Fact Sheets on Girls’ (2002)
 - Edited Newsletter, *Action for Girls* (2003-2005)
 - Collaborated with UNICEF Regional Planning Coordinator to present workshop for Kenyan teachers on girls’ education, 15 December 2003, Nairobi.
 - Co-Chaired Working Group on Girls (2005 to present).

- **UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Council (UNESCO), Education for All Week**, 2003, 2003, 2005
 - Encouraged Participation and advocacy during the annual week.
 - Distributed materials and posted resources on SSND website, www.gerhardinger.org.

Other Initiatives in Support of UN Goals and Objectives.

- **Lectures, workshops and symposia**—the Director of the SSND UN/NGO Office has had the opportunity to speak often about the United Nations, the Millennium Development Goals and girls' education to members, students and their teachers, university professors and the general public. SSND has sponsored and participated in events in Austria, Brazil, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Kenya, Peru, Slovenia and the United States of America.
- Worked regularly on **education and advocacy** on issues before the UN
 - Produced and published study guides on sustainable development;
 - Developed educational programs on human trafficking to train professionals to identify victims and provide essential services to them:
 - Law enforcement personnel;
 - Health care workers;
 - Teachers
 - General public.
 - Engaged in various advocacy activities at the national level.
- Developed, disseminated and promoted participation in **UN Observances**:
 - International Day of Peace, September 21 (2003-2005);
 - Human Rights Day, December 10 (2004-2005);
 - UN Day for Women's Rights and International Peace, March 8 (2003-2005);
 - World Environment Day, June 5 (2004-2005).
- **Disseminated information** about the UN via
 - SSND web page gerhardinger.org;
 - SSND Newsletter published five times per year.
- Participated in the work of **NGO Committees and Working Groups** including:
 - Committee for Social Development and its Sub-Committee on Poverty Eradication;
 - NGO Committee on UNICEF's Working Group on Girls (co-chair);
 - Committee on Education;
 - Committee on Financing for Development.
- Co-sponsored **Snakes and Ladders**, game on importance of and barriers to girls' education, Central Park, New York, NY, 13 September 2005.

- Participated in national and international ***campaigns in support of MDGs***
 - UN Millennium Campaign: Voices against Poverty;
 - Global Call to Action against Poverty

**Membership of the School Sisters of Notre Dame
31 December 2005**

Albania	2
Argentina	15
Austria	43
Belarus	10
Bolivia	1
Brazil	228
Canada	138
Chile	3
Czech Republic	22
Gambia	7
Germany	734
Ghana	22
Guatemala	7
Honduras	10
Hungary	96
Israel	1
Italy	65
Japan	67
Kenya	31
Micronesia (Federal State of)	2
Nepal	4
Nigeria	26
Paraguay	4
Peru	11
Poland	210
Republic of Korea	1
Romania	18
Serbia and Montenegro	9
Slovenia	40
Sweden	5
Switzerland	1
Timor-Leste	1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	5
United States of America	2060
Territory of Guam	19
Territory of Puerto Rico	18
Total	3936