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## Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

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### Quadrennial reports for the period 2020–2023 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.



## **1. Association APEDDUB**

Special, 2020

### **Introduction**

Association APEDDUB is a national non-governmental organization based in Bizerte that works on environmental protection and sustainable development throughout Tunisia, with a focus on Bizerte Governorate.

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

- Educate future generations about environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources
- Raise public awareness of environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources
- Build the capacities of local non-governmental organizations and young people in relation to the green economy, environmental governance, the sustainable management of natural resources, climate change, biodiversity, and waste and chemicals management
- Lobby and mobilize political decision makers to address climate change and the risks of chemicals
- Carry out sustainable development and environmental protection projects on the ground

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

None.

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

- Project entitled “Enhance the involvement of local civil society in the gender-sensitive climate change adaptation process, transforming it into a sustainable societal project”, which will run from 2023 to 2024. The project aims to conduct capacity-building activities for local civil society in gender-sensitive climate change adaptation and provide them with educational resources, co-create and disseminate innovative climate solutions emphasizing gender equality and implement advocacy activities by civil society organizations to champion gender equality.
- “Smart agri” project 3 of the Small-Scale Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organizations in North Africa, running from 2022 to 2024, with the aim of building the capacities of small farmers to reduce the use of chemical pesticides and replace them with pesticide plants or biopesticides.
- Project entitled “Local dialogue for the sustainable management of plastic waste in Bizerte Governorate, 2020”, aimed at establishing a local action plan for the sustainable management of plastic waste in Bizerte Governorate with the involvement of all local stakeholders.
- Project entitled “Climate dialogue and the implementation of a local climate plan to combat the impacts of climate change”, running from 2019 to 2023, with the aim of developing a local action plan for climate change adaptation and resilience in Bizerte Governorate with the involvement of all local and national stakeholders.
- Project 2 of the Small-Scale Initiatives Programme for Civil Society Organizations in North Africa entitled “Enhancing the value of medicinal plants,

and training and creating green jobs for rural women in Teskeraya and Oued Zitoune in Bizerte and Siliana Governorates, 2019–2021”.

- Project entitled “Awareness-raising and advocacy campaign to ban the use of dental amalgam in children under 15 years of age and pregnant and breastfeeding women, 2018–2020”.

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

The organization has participated in several sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, from the nineteenth to the twenty-ninth sessions. At the twenty-seventh session, held in Sharm el-Sheikh in November 2022, the organization was a speaker at two side events, one on resilience in food security in Africa and the role of women in ensuring food and water security and one on the role of civil society in protecting the health of local communities and women in rural areas.

During the sessions, the organization participated in several meetings of the African Group of Negotiators on agriculture and in meetings on climate finance, presenting the vision of African civil society.

The organization participated in the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Sharm el-Sheikh in 2018, and the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, held in Riyadh in December 2024, and was a speaker at a side event organized by the League of Arab States on the role of change in desertification and ways to tackle it in the Arab region.

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

The non-governmental organization implemented a project in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme from 2019 to 2023 to strengthen climate dialogue between various local and national stakeholders with a view to developing a local action plan for climate change adaptation and resilience in Bizerte Governorate.

In 2023, the organization submitted applications for accreditation to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to the United Nations Environment Programme.

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

- Every year, the Association celebrates World Environment Day, raising awareness among children and the general public of the need to reduce energy and water consumption.
- Our organization’s activities are also focused on supporting the global development programme through advocacy and awareness-raising.

## **2. Association Genèse**

Special, 2016

### **Introduction**

During the period from 2020 to 2023, many activities were carried out in the country despite some economic disruptions, including those affecting our

organization. We had been working in a state of fear because there were demonstrations until October, but we have since managed to resume some of our activities. The following report covers the period from 2020 to 2023.

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

The organization's aims and objectives are to educate young people and children, to provide assistance and guidance to disadvantaged groups and to diversify activities relating to the arts, publishing, information technology and vocational training.

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

Yes, the creation of Genèse France. There are plans to establish Genèse Switzerland and Genèse Canada.

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

Publication of flyers and papers on the environment and the preservation of rights.

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

More frequent participation in online activities in accordance with our reduced budget.

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

We have maintained good cooperation and carried out many activities with partner organizations.

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

Publication of flyers and papers on the environment and the preservation of rights, and participation in a video post on street children.

### **3. Fondation des œuvres pour la solidarité et le bien-être social, ONG (FOSBES)**

Special, 2012

#### **Introduction**

The Fondation des œuvres pour la solidarité et le bien-être social (FOSBES) is a non-governmental organization that was established by Gilbert Kalubi on 15 February 2000 with the aim of promoting, through acts of solidarity, the social well-being of people in general and the advancement of society in particular.

The company is therefore committed to promoting development, protecting the environment and improving the living conditions of the Congolese people, while also participating in various programmes of both the African Union (the Abuja strategic social framework of 2008) and the United Nations.

This report provides comprehensive information on all the social, environmental and development activities of FOSBES.

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

FOSBES has a number of objectives but is currently focusing predominantly on:

Promoting comprehensive community development;

Enabling communities to live in lasting peace and bringing citizens closer to Governments;

Significantly reducing urban delinquency and crime;

Providing balanced access for people to an accessible environment;

Providing people with access to justice to support family cohesion and dignity.

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

As can be seen, the scope of our work is well defined, but we have limited resources. We have reached over 5,200,000 people, or 5.7 per cent of a possible 90,000,000, through our activities, particularly in the areas of information-sharing, training and awareness-raising about community work.

We have continued, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations, to provide access for the informal sector to disease risk-sharing under the universal health coverage programme in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In addition, we have continued the flagship activities under the campaign to change attitudes among young people in the light of the rise of “kulunas”, namely, young people who use machetes or blunt instruments to brutally attack people and make money.

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

Although material hardships have forced us to reduce our efforts to contribute to the work of the United Nations, the situation may improve in the near future thanks to new initiatives to implement three Sustainable Development Goals. FOSBES continues to educate and raise awareness among the Congolese people and to encourage their participation in the activities of Global Compact Local Networks through sustainable partnership projects, and in efforts to combat poverty and ensure the effective involvement of women in development initiatives.

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

FOSBES has participated in local activities carried out by organizations in the United Nations system but has found it increasingly difficult to participate in international activities, as follows:

- 2020 was a very difficult year marked by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic
- Sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held from 15 to 26 March 2021
- Fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Population and Development, held from 25 to 29 April 2022 in New York
- 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held from 27 June to 1 July 2022 in New York

- United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, held from 22 to 24 March 2023 in New York
- High-level political forum on sustainable development held from 10 to 20 July 2023 in New York
- Regular session of the Human Rights Council
- Attended several human rights conferences

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

A number of difficulties have arisen with regard to the administrative facilities that accredited non-governmental organizations are required to have with local United Nations agencies, in particular the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Kinshasa. In addition to those difficulties, the diplomatic mission of the United States of America does not seem to understand that the relationship between non-governmental organizations and the United Nations is about ensuring that the work of the United Nations is always visible.

The leaders of FOSBES hope that the situation will improve, including in terms of access to various United Nations programmes, projects and funding.

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

FOSBES has set the following objectives:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. Combat hunger, end hunger and famine, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

## **4. Fondation Jérôme Lejeune**

Special, 2020

### **Introduction**

The Fondation Jérôme Lejeune, which was recognized as a public service organization in France in 1996, serves people with intellectual disabilities of genetic origin, such as Down syndrome, Williams-Beuren syndrome and Fragile X syndrome.

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

The Fondation Jérôme Lejeune has three core missions:

- Medical research: it is a major player in French and international research, contributing to major medical breakthroughs to improve the quality of life and autonomy of people with intellectual disabilities. Since its creation, it has funded more than 850 research projects and produced over 1,000 scientific publications.
- Shelter and care: it is the first medical and paramedical consultation centre in Europe dedicated to Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities of genetic origin. It provides people with access to a complete care pathway, with teams specialized in intellectual disabilities, to enhance their quality of life and their autonomy in their daily lives.

- Defence of dignity: it contributes to the protection of the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities. It defends the dignity and life of every individual.

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

The Fondation Jérôme Lejeune is constantly expanding, with the number of employees, the number of people seeking consultations and the amount of funding for research into Down syndrome and other intellectual disabilities of genetic origin all increasing. These changes have enabled it to develop more projects actively involving persons with intellectual disabilities.

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

Since obtaining consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the Fondation Jérôme Lejeune has proactively contributed to the work of the United Nations, as follows:

- Review of France by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2021: the Fondation made written and oral contributions to the review.
- World Down Syndrome Day in March 2021: the Fondation organized a conference on 17 March 2021 to raise awareness of the rights of persons with Down syndrome. The conference was co-organized with six permanent missions.
- Fourth cycle of the universal periodic review: on 7 October 2022, during the universal periodic review of the forty-third session of the Human Rights Council, the Fondation submitted a report in which it highlighted the discrimination still present in France against persons with Down syndrome.
- Side event at the Human Rights Council: on 28 September 2023, the Fondation was invited as an expert to a side event at the fifty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council. The event, entitled “Empowering inclusion: advancing human rights of persons with disabilities”, brought together Member States to discuss the rights of persons with disabilities.
- Review of Belgium by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2024: the Fondation submitted a written contribution and made an oral statement during the briefing for organizations of persons with disabilities by experts of the Committee.
- Side event at the Commission on the Status of Women in March 2024: the Fondation participated in a side event at United Nations Headquarters in New York on the occasion of World Down Syndrome Day, organized in collaboration with Member States and Down Syndrome International, on the theme “Achieving health equity for people with disabilities”. A young girl with Down syndrome and her mother spoke on behalf of the Fondation Jérôme Lejeune, highlighting the importance of the Institut Jérôme Lejeune in her care and development.

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

Since obtaining consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the Fondation Jérôme Lejeune has attended two sessions of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in March 2024 and August 2024, as well as several side events.

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

The Fondation cooperates mainly with the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, submitting written contributions and making statements during sessions and consultations.

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

The Fondation Jérôme Lejeune contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals in several ways, as follows:

- Goal 3: through its commitment to medical research and care for people with intellectual disabilities.
- Goal 10: by promoting the inclusion and dignity of persons with disabilities, the Fondation is working to reduce social and health inequalities. The Fondation advocates and campaigns for the right to excellent health.
- Goal 16: through its advocacy in support of the rights and dignity of vulnerable people, it supports fair and inclusive institutions.

## **5. Promotion du développement économique et social (PDES)**

Special, 2016

### **Introduction**

Within the Human Rights Council, we are committed to multidimensional and resolute action.

Our active involvement in the Council comprises a wide range of activities aimed at protecting fundamental rights and denouncing the violations that continue to plague the world. More than a mission, it is a responsibility that we shoulder with conviction and determination.

Our key areas of action are:

Proactive defence of human rights: we mobilize to protect the rights of the most vulnerable communities, bringing to light violations that are often overlooked;

Advocacy and awareness-raising: through targeted, coordinated actions, we amplify the voices of the oppressed in international forums;

Rigorous monitoring: we rely on field data and reports to support our statements and recommendations, ensuring a fact-based approach;

Strategic side events: our side events bring together experts, diplomats and civil society representatives to explore concrete solutions to the most pressing issues.

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

Our aims and objectives are as follows:

Prevent human rights violations: identify conflict zones and risk situations before they escalate through an early warning system based on reliable data;

Promote justice and accountability: campaign in support of local and international accountability initiatives to bring the perpetrators of human rights violations to justice;

Strengthen local capacities: work with non-governmental organizations, grass-roots associations and local institutions to provide them with the tools they need to protect human rights in their specific contexts;

Educate and raise awareness: develop training programmes, media campaigns and educational partnerships to promote a culture of human rights;



Foster international collaboration: build solid alliances with States, international organizations and civil society to maximize the impact of our actions.

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

The organization has opened a branch in Rabat, the capital of the Kingdom of Morocco.

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

The organization has actively contributed to the work of the United Nations at the United Nations Office at Geneva and on the ground in the Kingdom of Morocco. As a key actor committed to the protection and promotion of human rights, our organization plays an essential role within United Nations mechanisms. We mobilize our resources, our expertise and our international network to contribute actively to the work of the Human Rights Council and affiliated institutions.

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

- Made four joint statements at the fifty-second session of the Human Rights Council during a one-day high-level meeting on the right to development and a panel discussion on the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development.
- Made four statements at the fifty-third session of the Human Rights Council: the annual report submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was focused on the human rights situation in West and North Africa. OHCHR extended its actions to Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia, to promote human rights-based migration governance, including in the context of combating trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling. The Office also released a report on advancing a rights-based approach to climate change resilience and migration in the Sahel.
- Made three statements at the fifty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council.
- Participated in the 2023 Social Forum of the Human Rights Council.
- Participated in the sixteenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues.
- Participated in an intersessional workshop on cultural rights.

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

- Cooperates with other non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council
- Cooperates with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- Cooperates with the Permanent Missions of Switzerland and Morocco to the United Nations

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

PDES participated in panel discussions to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education. The Special Rapporteur on the right to education has invited people from Generation Z to participate in an interactive discussion on how they envision education that prepares them to successfully navigate their world.

## **6. Regroupement des jeunes africains pour la démocratie et le développement – section Togo**

Special, 2016

### **Introduction**

The Regroupement des jeunes africains pour la démocratie et le développement – section Togo (REJADD-Togo) is a non-governmental organization that promotes and protects human rights and humanitarian actions in Togo. It coordinates citizen actions against human rights violations in Togo.

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

REJADD-Togo aims to contribute to the sustainable, comprehensive and harmonious development of Africa in general and Togo in particular.

Aims and purposes:

- Defending, protecting and promoting human rights in Togo and in Africa
- Combating the death penalty and mob justice in all their forms
- Promoting and protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and children in Togo
- Combating corruption, impunity and torture in all their forms in Togo
- Combating the various forms of socioeconomic injustice in Togo
- Promoting entrepreneurship and civic engagement among young people
- Providing psychosocial care and in some cases financial assistance to victims of human rights abuses in Togo
- Gradually but drastically eradicating fatal road accidents in Togo
- Promoting equality between men and women
- Working to safeguard and protect the environment

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

There have been no significant changes, but we expect to obtain observer status with the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in the coming years.

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

Pursuant to the appeal made by Michelle Bachelet, we have taken a number of initiatives to urge the Togolese authorities to release the oldest prisoners, sick prisoners, offenders posing a low risk and anyone detained without sufficient legal basis, including those detained simply for expressing critical or dissenting views.

Through a statement in 2020, REJADD-Togo and the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty called upon countries that still apply the death penalty to impose a moratorium on death sentences and executions given the impossibility of ensuring fair trials and fair legal representation during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Other contributions:

- Human rights monitoring during the health emergency in Togo in trials and places of detention in Togo

- Legal and judicial assistance for prisoners of conscience in Togo
- Dissemination of laws in response to United Nations recommendations that the State of Togo promote the dissemination of existing texts

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

It should be remembered that the reporting period was shaken by a global health crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To contain the disease, Governments imposed travel and transport restrictions on people.

Notwithstanding those government restrictions, not to mention the reduction in in-person activities at United Nations duty stations during the health crisis, when videoconferences were preferred, our representatives still participated in about 20 virtual meetings of United Nations bodies and 10 in-person meetings, including: the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, in March 2020; the high-level political forum on sustainable development from 10 to 19 July 2023; the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Population and Development, from 10 to 14 April 2023; the sixteenth session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; in June 2023; and the Forum on Business and Human Rights in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

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

REJADD-TOGO cooperates with the following bodies:

- United Nations Development Programme in Togo, Commission on the Status of Women, Working Group on Arbitrary Detention and Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances
- Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises
- Committee against Torture
- Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

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

- Implementation of a project on road safety and road infrastructure in response to target 6 of Goal 3 and target 2 of Goal 11
- Dissemination of the Togolese Criminal Code with a view to combating discrimination against women, and community mobilization to promote gender equality in response to Goals 5, 10 and 16
- Submission of a transnational advocacy document to the International Organisation of la Francophonie to seek more funding for its call for initiatives to support francophone civil society organizations working to achieve the Goals

## **7. Solidarité agissante pour le développement familial (SADF)**

Special, 2012

### **Introduction**

Although we achieved truly great success during these years, we also experienced sadness during the historic period of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

**Aims and purposes of the organization**

Solidarité agissante pour le développement familial (SADF) works to reduce poverty and hunger. We are committed to promoting socioeconomic activities that can help to alleviate the pain and misery of various types of poor families. We act on their behalf and protect their rights by creating human rights institutions to combat violence against women and young people and ensure that they do not become perpetual victims. We organize vocational training workshops in various trades (relating to good governance and the United Nations system) to help our beneficiaries to take charge of their lives.

**Significant changes in the organization**

Faced with the global disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to create new virtual offices to implement organizational changes and help to remedy the lack of information for our members and national, provincial and regional communities, even those in places without Internet. This change has helped us in everything from innovation, member engagement and better performance to direct communication and favourable responses. To successfully lead such a change, we turned to an interim manager as an essential strategic solution.

Teleworking and flexible office arrangements have been implemented. The Executive Secretary of SADF was replaced by the Deputy Executive Secretary.

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

Our contribution consists of investing in people through specific actions, such as promoting higher living standards, full employment and conditions conducive to the economic and social progress and development of communities. We worked in collaboration with everyone without discrimination or tribalism to support the achievement without fail of the Millennium Development Goals in the areas of education, hunger, women's empowerment, gender equality, environment and health. The search for peace and security by the people and the leaders of our countries has been at the forefront of our actions in the countries where we are based, namely, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Cameroon, and in the countries where our members and partners live. We have contributed to and led lobbying efforts to encourage the authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to maintain good relations with neighbouring countries and protect the people. On several occasions, we had to work remotely with the Congolese Government and other African countries. SADF is committed to training and educating people living in poverty to enable them to take care of themselves, thus reducing unemployment and severe malnutrition. This is what is driving our country towards development and peace, in support of the peacekeeping mission of the United Nations.

**Participation in meetings of the United Nations**

SADF has participated by videoconference and in person, including in a consultation organized by the Economic and Social Council; in the sixty-fourth, sixty-fifth, sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, remotely and in person; and in a consultation involving United Nations observers of the least developed countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America. SADF participated in the General Assembly in 2023; participated in and organized the side event at the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held in Portugal in 2022; participated remotely in the twenty-second and twenty-seventh sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in 2021 and

2022; participated in the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Doha; and organized two side events and other meetings that cannot be listed because there is not enough space.

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

We have enjoyed good cooperation with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service and have appreciated the support to our organization from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and, of course, the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We are committed to collaborating and strengthening our relations not only with them but also with the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund, and we often participate in civil society consultations launched by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

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

Promotion of income-generating activities, advocacy, teleworking, mobilization of financial resources and networking, all while working with others to learn and share good practices (through youth clubs and dialogues with minorities and marginalized people).

## **8. Tour opération et initiatives**

Special, 2012

### **Introduction**

Tour opération et initiatives (TOI) is a non-governmental organization based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is a multisector Congolese youth organization with a voluntary and apolitical mission that was created in 2012 to support the initiatives and talents of young people in various fields through education and training to enable them all to become not only resourceful, model people capable of taking care of themselves, but also free people who know their duties and how to defend their rights.

TOI is a permanent member of the National Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and works in partnership with several public institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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

Combating recklessness, laziness and illiteracy among young people through education and vocational training; promoting and spreading Congolese culture through print and audiovisual media; protecting and addressing (denouncing violations of) the rights of children and young people; combating harmful behaviour (drug and alcohol use, rape, corruption and favouritism); fostering peace and development through our actions; reducing poverty in rural areas by engaging the population in sustainable development; encouraging environmental protection and public participation by providing reliable information and facilitating access to education, food security and primary healthcare for all; supporting efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and all endemic diseases; supporting efforts to combat global warming and deforestation; combating corruption, drug abuse and all forms of violence against women and girls; and training, informing and educating people about new information technologies.

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

Two senior members of the organization were designated as focal points for the National Centre for Climate Change Research and for the European Union delegation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to monitor projects. There have been deaths among our members. Local branches were opened in Bilili and Nkutu in Kwilu Province to monitor our activities. Two partnerships were signed with two foundations.

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

In collaboration with the National Centre for Climate Change Research of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the organization has run several local workshops and training courses for young people following the implementation of our projects in the country.

With the European Union delegation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, TOI has organized several meetings, workshops, seminars and training courses on pollutants, deforestation and environmental management in Kwilu Province and on the consequences of global warming.

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

Since TOI refused to engage in certain aspects of political life in keeping with the demands of the public, its senior staff and members, including the person responsible for communications, have been banned from leaving the country by the current authorities. Since February 2024, the situation seems to have been normalizing and improving. We hope to resume our normal activities.

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

TOI has always maintained good relations with the institutions of the United Nations system despite the difficulties we have encountered from the authorities in place since 2019, whose law enforcement officials have vandalized our equipment, vehicles and digital tools. Currently, our main concern is to strengthen the capacity of our members following a period of inactivity.

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

TOI has designed and submitted to the European Union delegation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo five social projects for 2024 to benefit the Indigenous population. TOI has helped to promote the production of seasonal field crops of maize, cassava, squash and peanuts in Nkutu I and II villages in Kwilu Province, with a view to gradually reducing poverty.

The National Centre for Climate Change Research has agreed to fund workshops and training for local leaders on the management of our projects.

Meeting organizers should contact the various consular services at Schengen House to facilitate visits by delegations, especially for important meetings held in Geneva.

We call for United Nations meetings to also be held in countries in post-conflict or conflict situations, so that the environmental and humanitarian needs of those nations can be addressed with the help of United Nations experts.