

AIDE MEMOIRE

Capacity Building Programme for the United Nations NGO Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE) in Turkey, Follow-up to Caspian (Caucasian /Central Asia) Region Launch Meeting of Azerbaijan, November 2004, and partnership with Balkan NGOs

BACKGROUND

To increase civil society's involvement in economic and social life and the number of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) being granted consultative status, the United Nations Economic and Social Council decided to promote inclusive relationships with a large number of NGOs from all regions of the world. This initiative also responds to the fact that **a great number of organizations face financial and logistical constraints that minimize considerably the effective use of their consultative status with ECOSOC and limit their participation in the international decision making process**, preventing them from taking advantage of the increasing role they might play in the new governance at all levels (global, regional, national and local).

In 1999, the General Assembly recommended that the United Nations Secretariat NGO Section (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) "improve the exchange of information through informal networks of country or regionally-based NGOs in consultative status with the ECOSOC, which will serve as links between the NGO Section and NGOs in each region". This recommendation intends to promote regular contacts between this Section and NGOs, to improve the spread of information on the United Nations' activities regionally and internationally towards NGOs and to strengthen their capacities and their partnership with the United Nations.

In order to respond to these objectives, the NGO Section/DESA promoted the establishment of an informal regional network of NGOs (UN- NGO-IRENE) gathering organizations representing Northern Africa, Western Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe and Latin America. This initiative was launched in April 2001 during the meeting of Aracaju (Brazil) "Launch of the UN-NGO Informal Regional Network".

The Network, supported through the intermediary activities of designated regional and sub-regional coordinator organizations, aims at creating a system that provides information and support to all organizations, even the smallest and the most isolated, and gives them the opportunity for sharing expertise and resources, so as to reinforce their impact. It thus contributes to harmonizing and unifying the actions launched by the United Nations System in favor of an increased cooperation and partnership with civil society.

In January 2002, the meeting on “Capacity Building for the UN-NGO Informal Regional Network in Africa”, held in Hammamet (Tunisia), launched the UN-NGO-IRENE in Africa. One of the most relevant outcomes of the meeting was the designation of five African NGOs to serve as sub-regional coordinators and of one of them as regional coordinator.

In May 2003, the UN-NGO-IRENE in Eastern Europe was also established with the support of UNDP/Romania during the Bucharest Meeting in Romania with two sub-regional coordinators and one regional coordinator.

During a capacity building meeting held in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2004, the informal regional network in the Caspian Region was established and a regional coordinator was selected.

In March 2005, in Islamabad, Pakistan during the International Conference on Gender mainstreaming and the MDGs, the UN-NGO-IRENE in Asia was established taking benefit of the participation in the Conference of several national coordinators for Asian countries.

The UN-NGO-IRENE was also established at a national level in Canada, China, India, Japan, Pakistan, Mauritania and Azerbaijan. For Mauritania, it was created with the support of UNDP/Mauritania

In the framework of the worldwide development of the UN-NGO-IRENE and of its implementation in the remaining regions and countries, a High Level Consultation and Capacity Building programme to launch the UN-NGO-IRENE in Turkey, follow up to the establishment of the UN-NGO-IRENE in the Caspian (Caucasian/Central Asia) Region, and partnership with Balkan NGOs is proposed.

OBJECTIVES

The capacity building programme to launch the UN-NGO Informal Regional Network in Turkey and Follow-up to the Caspian Region Meeting of October 2004 in Baku, Azerbaijan aims at strengthening NGOs’ capacities, providing them with the necessary tools to contribute to the work of ECOSOC and to face the major problems the NGO sector meets in the region:

- ◆ The logistical and financial constraints that limit the ability of NGOs from Turkey and the Caspian region to participate in the decision-making process at the international level
- ◆ The reduced number of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC in Turkey as only 14 NGOs are in consultative status with ECOSOC
- ◆ The isolation from the global strategy of development planning at the international level limits the effectiveness of NGO activities at the local level and their contribution to the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals ‘ implementation as well
- ◆ The weak level of cooperation and exchange among NGOs in Turkey and in the region that prevents them from planning common and more effective strategies for attaining international, regional and national development goals.

Long-term objectives

- ◆ To enhance NGOs' contribution to the development of their country and their role in the new participatory governance at all levels (local, national, regional and international)
- ◆ To facilitate NGOs' participation in the United Nations activities and in the international decision-making process
- ◆ To promote the effectiveness of NGOs' response to common development challenges
- ◆ To promote exchange of innovative experiences and best practices among NGOs, especially among the ones operating in neighbor countries.

Immediate objectives

- ◆ Reinforcing NGOs' existing skills, building NGO capacity and developing human resources
- ◆ Strengthening relationships, exchange, cooperation and partnership initiatives, projects and programmes among NGOs in the region and between developed countries' NGOs and the other ones
- ◆ Establishing a permanent dialogue among the NGOs, the NGO Section/DESA, local structures of the UNDP, DPI and the United Nations in general facilitating the access to information
- ◆ Strengthening multistakeholder partnership between the United Nations, Youth, Universities and Academia, national Economic and Social Councils, NGOs and national, sub-regional and regional coordinators of UN-NGO-IRENE to enhance their contribution to the ECOSOC work in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the major UN events' recommendations and action plans.

ACTIVITIES

The capacity building programme for NGOs (especially in consultative status) will be implemented through:

- ◆ the organization and conduct of a High-Level Consultation and Capacity building Meeting to strengthen the capacity of Turkish NGOs
- ◆ the organization and conduct of a training workshop to launch the UN-NGO-IRENE in Turkey, and follow up on the UN-NGO-IRENE/Caspian Region
- ◆ On the job training on how to formulate strategic action plan to promote partnership initiatives, projects and programmes between Turkey Civil Society Organizations, Youth, Universities, national ECOSOC, Business Community, Governments and the United Nations and enhance NGO contribution to the ECOSOC work in implementing the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs
- ◆ Meeting with the NGO members of the UN-NGO-IRENE/ Caspian Region to finalize the draft strategic action plan of the region and agree on the means to implement it.

The following activities will be undertaken before, during and after the meeting:

- ◆ Presentation of the overall concept of the UN-NGO- IRENE

- ◆ Identification of key issues and challenges of the civil society in Turkey and in the Caspian region
- ◆ On the job training to elaborate an initial strategic action plan to enhance the capacity-building role of the network, including projects/programmes' proposals to be implemented under the leadership of each representative (NGOs, partners, UNDESA)
- ◆ Selection of NGOs, that were granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and that possess recognized standing within a particular field of expertise related to the MDGs, to serve as focal point in this field in the framework of the UN-NGO-IRENE/Turkey
- ◆ Finalization and adoption of the strategic action plan of the UN-NGO-IRENE/Caspian Region.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- ◆ A United Nations-NGO Informal Regional Network for Turkey established
- ◆ A national coordinator for the UN-NGO-IRENE/Turkey designated
- ◆ A preliminary strategic action plan for the UN-NGO-IRENE/Turkey formulated and adopted
- ◆ A strategic action plan for the UN-NGO-IRENE/Caspian Region finalized and adopted
- ◆ An NGO statement to the HLS of ECOSOC of 2006 prepared based on the recommendations and outcome of the meetings

TARGET GROUP / BENEFICIARIES

1. Capacity Building meeting to Launch UN-NGO-IRENE/Turkey: 78 NGOs

- ◆ 14 Turkish NGOs in status and 20 NGOs applying as participants (See list in **Annex 1**)
- ◆ 20 Turkish local NGOs as observers
- ◆ 14 NGOs from the Caspian Region as observers (See list in **Annex 2**)
- ◆ 10 NGOs from the Balkan countries as observers

2. Capacity Building meeting to Follow-up on the establishment of the UN-NGO-IRENE/Caspian region in Azerbaijan, November 2004: 78 NGOs

- ◆ 14 NGOs in status or applying as participants from the Caspian region (See **Annex 3**)
- ◆ 34 NGOs in status or applying from Turkey as observers (See list in **Annex 2**)
- ◆ 20 Turkish local NGOs as observers
- ◆ 10 NGOs from the Balkan countries as observers

VENUE, PROPOSED DATES AND HOST NGOs

Bursa and Istanbul, Turkey, from 28 to 30 September 2005

Preparatory mission of the UNDESA Senior Adviser and UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section Project Coordinator from 20 September to 1 October 2005

HOST NGOs

Two NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC:

- ◆ Federation of Balkan Turks & Associations for Emigrants (BAL-GOC Federation)
- ◆ The Istanbul International Brotherhood and Solidarity Association (IBS)

AGENDA OF THE MEETINGS (See Annex 3)

WORKING METHODS

A fully participatory, action-oriented approach will be adopted, drawing, to the extent possible, of the practical experience of the participants. Analysis of substantive and administrative issues and problems, the strategic action plan and the proposals for regional operational activities will be addressed through group brainstorming in round-table discussion sessions among NGOs including partners. Participants will be requested to give all relevant information on their respective organization, including field of expertise, objectives and activities. They will also provide documentation on innovative experiences and good practices that the organization has successfully implemented and might wish to share with other NGOs.

Turkish NGOs in Status or applying for consultative status with ECOSOC**14 NGOs in consultative status:**

1. Association for Solidarity with freedom-deprived juveniles
2. Dogal Hayati Koruma Dernegi - Society for the Protection of Nature
3. Family Planning Association of Turkey
4. Federation of Balkan Turks & Associations for Emigrees
5. Foundation for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Relief, The
6. Human Resource Development Foundation, The
7. International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations
8. Istanbul International Brotherhood and Solidarity Association
9. Marmara Group Strategic and Social Research Foundation
10. Press Council
11. Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation
12. Turkish Foundation for Children in need of Protection, The
13. Turkish Foundation for Combating Soil Erosion, for Reforestation and the Protection of Natural Habitats (TEMA Foundation)
14. UMUT Foundation

20 NGOs applying for status:

1. Anakultur
2. Association for Liberal Thinking
3. Bati Trakya Kultur ve Saglik Vakfi
4. Child Foundation/Cocuk Vakfi
5. EUROASIA Development and Co-operation Foundation
6. European Association for Renewable Energies
7. Foundation for the Promotion and Protection of the Environment and Cultural Heritage
8. Mor Cati Kadin Siginagi Vakfi (Mor Cati Foundation for Women's Shelter)
9. Mother Child Education Foundation
10. New Ways: Women for Women's Human Rights (WWHR)
11. Turkish Association of University Women
12. Turkish Cypriot Association of University Women
13. Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation
14. Turkish Press Council (Basin Konseyi)
15. Turkish Section of European Renewable Energy Association
16. United Nations of Turkey
17. Western Thrace Turks Solidarity Association (Bati Trakya Turkleri Dayanisma Dernegi)
18. White Point Foundation
19. Women's Studies Association
20. Youth Association for Habitat and Agenda 21

**Number of NGOs in or applying for consultative status with ECOSOC
in the Central Region and the Balkan region**

(with status, *applying for status*)

NGO's with Status in the Caspian Region:

Azerbaijan:

Azerbaijan Women and Development Center [S]

Fund of Aid for Youth, The [S]

National Assembly of Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan (NaYORA) [S]

Georgia:

None

(*but Feminist Club* was recommended for Special status in the 2005 Resumed Session)

Kazakhstan:

Charitable Public Fund "Poligon - 29 August" [R-A1]

Kyrgyzstan:

Kyrgyz Committee for Human Rights [R-A1]

(*but Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan* was recommended for Special status in the 2005 Resumed Session)

Uzbekistan:

None

Tajikistan:

None

Turkmenistan:

None

NGO's applying for Status in the Caspian Region:

Azerbaijan:

Azerbaijan NGO Alliance for Children's Right
NGO-UNICEF Regional Network for Children in CEE/CIS & Baltic States

Georgia:

Feminist Club, The
(*but Feminist Club* was recommended for Special status in the 2005 Resumed Session)

Green Earth Foundation
International Association of Young Diplomats
International Center for Environmental Research

Kazakhstan:

[Kazakhstan Association of the Customs Brokers](#)

Kyrgyzstan:

Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan
(*but Forum of Women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan* was recommended for Special status in the 2005 Resumed Session)

International Charitable Foundation "Merrim"
Women Support Center

Uzbekistan:

Business Women's Association of Uzbekistan

Tajikistan:

None

Turkmenistan:

Business Women Center of Turkmenistan

NGOs with Status in the Balkan Region:

Albania:

None

Bulgaria:

[International Academy of Architecture \[S\]](#)

[International Black Sea Club \[S\]](#)

Macedonia:

Association for Democratic Initiatives [S]

NGOs applying for Status in Balkan Region:

Albania:

Intelektualet E Rinj, Shprese (IRSH)

Bulgaria:

International Association Against Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse (IADTDA)

Macedonia:

Macedonian Center for International Cooperation
Union of Women's Organizations of Macedonia

Draft Agenda of the Meetings

Wednesday 28 September 2005

09:00-9:30	Arrival and Registration
9:30-10:00	Opening Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Welcoming by Turhan Gencoglu, President of BAL GOC on behalf of the two Host NGOs ◆ Opening Statement by Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the NGO Section/ECOSOC of UNDESA, ◆ Opening Speech by
10:00-10:30	Networking Break
10:30-13:00	High-Level Consultation and Capacity Building Meeting to Strengthen the Capacity of Turkish NGOs Moderator: Serdar Yildirim , President of IBS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hanifa Mezoui : “ ECOSOC, NGOs and MDGs” ◆ Najet Karaborni, UN-NGO-IRENE/Project Coordinator and Senior Advisor/UNDESA: “UN-NGO-IRENE Objectives and role” Discussions: Q & A NGO presentations and Formation of Working Groups on MDGs
13:00-14:30	Networking Lunch
14:30-16:00	Working Groups: UN-NGO-IRENE/Turkey
16:00-16:30	Networking Break
16:30-17:30	Report of the Working Groups
17:30-18:00	Closing of the National Meeting
19:30-22:00	Dinner hosted by Governor of Bursa

Thursday 29 September 2005

9:30-11:00	UN-NGO-IRENE/Caspian Region Follow-up Moderator: Nedim Kaya, Regional Coordinator of the UN-NGO-IRENE/Caspian region Presentation of the strategic action plan for UN-NGO-IRENE/Caspian Region by Najet Karaborni Discussions and Adoption Of the strategic action plan
11:00-11:30	Networking Break
11:30-13:00	Partnership with Balkan NGOs Moderator: Turhan Gencoglu Presentation by Albert Musliu, UN-NGO-IRENE/Subregional Coordinator NGO proposals of partnership initiatives and action plan
13:00-14:30	Networking Lunch
14:30-16:00	Training Workshop: NGO contribution to the ECOSOC High Level segment of 2006 Moderator: Hanifa Mezoui NGO proposals and Recommendations on the selected ECOSOC Theme of 2006
16:00-16:15	Networking Break
16:15-17:00	Closing of the Regional Meeting: Summary report and Adoption Closing Speech
17:00-19:30	Bursa Sightseeing Tour and Dinner
19:30	Transfer to Istanbul

Friday 30 September 2005

Morning **Visit NGO Projects**

Afternoon **Departure of the participants**