

# WIPO



WIPO/GRKTF/IC/13/2

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: September 8, 2008

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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
GENEVA

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND GENETIC RESOURCES, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND FOLKLORE

**Thirteenth Session**  
**Geneva, October 13 to 17, 2008**

### ACCREDITATION OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (“the Committee”), at its first session, held in Geneva, from April 30 to May 3, 2001, approved certain organizational and procedural matters, including according *ad hoc* observer status to a number of organizations that had expressed their wish to have a role in the works of the Committee (see the Report adopted by the Committee, WIPO/GRKTF/IC/1/13, paragraph 18).
2. Since then, an additional number of organizations have expressed to the Secretariat their wish to obtain the same status for the subsequent sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee. A document containing the names and other biographical details of the organizations which, before August 15, 2008, requested representation in the thirteenth session of the Intergovernmental Committee is annexed to this document. The biographical details on the organizations contained in the Annex were received from each organization.
3. *The Intergovernmental Committee is invited to approve the accreditation of the organizations referred to in the Annex to this document as ad hoc observers.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE REQUESTED REPRESENTATION  
AS OBSERVERS IN SESSIONS OF  
THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE

African Indigenous Women Organization (AIWO)

Association for the Reconstruction and Development of the Moko-Oh Peoples  
(AFTRADEMOP)

The Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity  
for Agricultural Revampment and Human Rights (FEEDAR & HR)

Incomindios Switzerland

Natural Justice

Norwegian Council for Traditional Music and Traditional Dance

Rromani Baxt

Swiss Society for Ethnomusicology CH-EM

Youth Forum for Social Action (YFSA)

### African Indigenous Women Organization (AIWO)

#### Main Objectives of the Organization:

African Indigenous Women Organization, Central African Network is an organization which was created in a conference in Agadir, Morocco, in 1998, and in Amsterdam in 1999. The organization is present in the whole of Africa but divided into five regions ( North, South, West, East and Central region). The regional head offices are based in Burkina Faso, Yaounde, Kenya, Morocco and South Africa.

Members are women leaders of indigenous women's group and associations of the central African region.

- Defend and promote the Rights and interest of indigenous women.
- Assist and promote women victims of violence and genital mutilation.
- Promote sustainable economic development in zones habited by indigenous communities.
- Assist indigenous women of Africa to preserve, protect and promote their indigenous knowledge and natural resources.
- Take action at the international level to prevent genocides and ethnocide.
- Organize training sessions for indigenous women on issues of human right.

#### Relationship of the Organization with Intellectual Property matters:

AIWO-CAN has held regional, country workshops and conferences on Indigenous Traditional Knowledge and other related issues on the convention of biological diversity.

We were among the broad members who reviewed the first phase and second phase of the regional report on traditional knowledge.

Our program officer also presented a paper on traditional indigenous knowledge and folklore on the Mbororo people in a workshop organized by the UN Permanent Forum in Panama.

AIWO-CAN has initiated some indigenous Traditional and Folklore centers which are for the protection, promotion and preservation of indigenous knowledge. These centers also serve as tourism base and generate income to the communities.

AIWO-CAN would like to participate at the upcoming session on Documentation and Digitization and learn how we can do the same to our cultural tradition, archive this Heritage for future generation and safe guard their interest in authorizing the use of their recordings and traditions without their prior informed consent.

Countries in which the Organization is primarily active:

Cameroon, Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Central African Republic, Gabon, Great Lakes region.

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Organization Representative:

Mrs. Haman Hajara, Program Officer.

Association for the Reconstruction  
and Development of the Moko-Oh Peoples  
(AFTRADEMOP)

Main Objectives of the Organization:

AFTRADEMOP is apolitical and a not for profit Indigenous Peoples' Community Based NGO with Observers Status at the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights; working to protect, promote and advocate for the respect of the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the Moko-oh Indigenous Peoples of Cameroon. Its main goal is to secure the recognition and restoration of the Moko-oh Indigenous and traditional Land rights, their resettlement in and development of their 3 ancestral villages from which they were chased away by the German colonial wars in 1914. This is done through:

- Advocacy at the national, regional and international level;
- Litigating before national courts, regional and internal jurisdictions, against oppressors and perpetrators of human rights violations against the Moko-oh's
- Empowering the Moko-oh people and building their capacity to defend their rights, through educative workshops and seminars on regional and international legal instruments protecting and promoting their fundamental human rights and freedoms.
- Networking, partnering and collaboration with interested national, regional and international NGOs, institutions, Jurists and UN agencies.

Relationship of the Organization with Intellectual Property Matters:

If the Moko-oh peoples are insisting on returning to their traditional and ancestral Lands, it is because of their Intellectual Property and spiritual attachment to it. If it were just a question of land, one could acquire alternative pieces or plots of land anywhere any time. What they mean here is their sacred sites, places of worship, tombs, sacred trees and waters etc. which constitute their link and means of communication with their ancestors, that has been disrupted for more than a century and affected them to near extinction. WIPO is therefore, the right forum for AFTRADEMOP whose application is coming too late, because of lack of access to information. It is thanks to a DOCIP date publication that it could have this information, hence its application.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Cameroon.

Full Contact Information:

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Cameroon

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Organization Representative:

Mrs. Ndifon Cecilia Eneck Epse Musongong.

The Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity  
for Agricultural Revampment and Human Rights (FEEDAR & HR)

Main Objectives of the Organization:

The project was initially coined to protect the human rights, the rights of their artistic and literary works, improve living and working conditions of Cocoa and Coffee peasant farmer communities after the collapse of the National Produce Marketing Board (NPMB) which was responsible for the marketing of Cameroon Cocoa and Coffee and the privatization of the sector by the Government without educating and sensitizing the rural peasant population on privatization and its consequences.

The objectives are:

- To reduce deforestation, illegal logging and increase the surface area of carbon absorption in the atmosphere.
- To reverse the state of affairs in restoring the various ecosystems within farming lands, reserved forests and river basins in Cameroon.
- Increase the capacities of peasant farmers to alternative income generating activities than the dependence of cocoa production only.
- To increase agricultural production as a means to alleviate rural poverty and hunger.
- To contribute to sustainable development of peasant farmers especially as many diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB continue to threaten the lives of people in these communities.

Relationship of the Organization with Intellectual Property matters:

Literary and artistic works (music, song, drama) comprise most of the activities of the indigenous communities in Cameroon, but unfortunately the rights of these great works are not protected and developed. We work towards enhancing a greater participation, development and education of the rights of the very important literary and artistic works in Cameroon. This further goes to preserve the very natural heritages and genetic resources like food sources, plants species, dialects, and many others.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

Cameroon.

Full Contact Information:

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Website: [www.feedar.interconnection.org](http://www.feedar.interconnection.org)

Organization Representative:

Mr. Tcharbuahbokengo Nfinn, Director General.



## Incomindios Switzerland

### Main Objectives of the Organization:

Incomindios Switzerland has been founded in 1974 by indigenous and Swiss people, with the goal of supporting indigenous people, organizations and groups all over the world in their fight for political, economic and cultural self-determination. Incomindios today is the oldest human rights organization in Europe which advocates for indigenous peoples. Incomindios works together with the indigenous people as a partner on the one hand and on the other hand informs the Swiss public regarding the situation of indigenous peoples, passes on information regarding culture and performs lobbying activities in Switzerland.

### Main Activities of the Organization:

Incomindios Switzerland provides indigenous people from all over the world with comprehensive support in terms of advocacy, know-how, networking and financial support. Since its foundation, it has been active in the frame of the UN in Geneva. Incomindios and its members have participated in all sessions of the WGIP since its establishment in 1982 and in various other sessions of the Commission of Human Rights respectively the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies, bringing/sharing its expert know-how in regard to indigenous issues as well as giving selective inputs on topic-centered indigenous issues. Incomindios as well holds a permanent observer status at UN ECOSOC, and is very committed in the field of global information society issues (WSIS) as well as biodiversity (CBD).

### Relationship of the Organization with Intellectual Property matters:

As stated above, an important part of the work of Incomindios Switzerland consists in vouching for indigenous concerns in relevant UN bodies. Incomindios is strongly motivated to tap its potential on what concerns assisting important processes in the field of intellectual property, as this is one of the main topics on its agenda.

In a globalizing world, intellectual property rights become more and more important especially for indigenous peoples, as they are confronted with the increasing interest of the public in their traditional knowledge, their traditional cultural expressions and their genetic resources. Therefore, the work of the IGC is of great importance for our organization's activities. We are very interested in following the discussion on the gap analysis elaborated by the Secretariat.

Maintaining the project of an indigenous web portal ([www.indigenousportal.com](http://www.indigenousportal.com)) and assisting indigenous people in following the WSIS-follow-up-process, Incomindios in addition is dealing with question of intellectual property rights especially in the ICT area. With regard to the CBD activities, Incomindios is getting involved particularly in the Working-Group on Access and Benefit-Sharing and the Working Group on Art. 8j). Furthermore, it cares about trade-related aspects of IP rights, with the aim to support indigenous peoples in performing their self-determination in the field of IP.

Additional Information:

Since 2006, Incomindios has been able to assist IGC meeting due to its collaboration with the Swiss NGO Bern Declaration. In the frame of IGC 12, in February 08, we attend the workshop “Facilitating the Participation in the Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge Debate in WIPO’s IGC” held by the IPI. Incomindios is currently applying for permanent observers status with WIPO.

Countries in which the Organization is primarily active:

Switzerland, North and South America.

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Organization Representatives:

Mrs. Martina Schmidt, Executive Director.

Mrs. Sari Miettinen-Wiggli, Project Manager.

Mrs. Eliane Scheibler, Project Assistant.

## Natural Justice

### Main Objectives of the Organization:

- Information, education and training on all areas of law relating to the environment and community rights.
- Training on issues relating to legal pluralism, customary law and the interface between secular and traditional legal systems.
- Legal advice concerning the environment and community rights.
- Governance capacity building.
- Dissemination of research on legal issues relating to communities and the environment.
- Best practice guidelines on working with communities around environmental issues.

### Relationship of the Organization with Intellectual Property Matters:

Natural Justice works as a resource organization for the African negotiators and indigenous communities on issues of Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) relating to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. It facilitates ABS training programs at a community level, regional level and at pre-ABS-WG meetings. ABS issues necessarily intersect with intellectual property matters as exemplified by the Hoodia case which Natural Justice has been closely involved with. Natural Justice would therefore like to observe and contribute in processes besides the CBD that affect traditional knowledge.

### Additional Information:

Natural Justice (Lawyers for Communities and the Environment) is a not-for-profit organization which provides communities with a range of legal expertise to promote their involvement in protecting and managing the environment.

According to the principle that any person who will be affected by a decision should be involved in the decision making process, Natural Justice puts communities at the heart of implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity, its related international instruments and domestic laws. It works with communities to achieve:

- The conservation of biological diversity.
- The sustainable use of the environment.
- The fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of natural resources.

Legal empowerment involves providing information, training and representing communities to develop their capacity to influence the formation and implementation of environmental law. Natural Justice also works on issues of governance and access to justice, assisting communities to meet modern challenges and wherever possible to resolve their own disputes.

Natural Justice is based in South Africa and currently focuses on access and benefit sharing law, engaging with communities at the interface between customary law and environmental regulations. It is establishing partnerships and setting up projects in Southern and Western Africa.

Countries in which the Organization is primarily active:

South Africa with developing projects in Namibia, Angola and Botswana.

Full Contact Information:

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and the Environment)  
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Organization Representatives:

Mr. Kabir Sanjay Bavikatte, Associate Director.

Mr. Harry Jonas, Associate Director.

Norwegian Council for Traditional Music and Traditional Dance

Main Objectives of the Organization:

The main aims are to promote, safeguard and secure transmission of Norwegian folk music and folk dance as expressions of cultural identity and carriers of unique qualities.

Objectives:

- To serve all lines of work in our field, to coordinate efforts and to improve output from available resources.
- To offer representative expertise for public administration and ensure know-how among policymakers and administrators.
- To document and research folk music and folkdance and give on results from the work.
- To promote enhanced knowledge about and understanding for folk music and folk dance and work for improved quality, participation and interest.

Main Activities of the Organization:

The expert council promotes the case of folk music and folk dance by answering hearing, and by presenting statements and evaluations to institutions in the public domain. It also approaches ministries and members of Parliament on issues concerning our field and receives applications and gives grants to projects in the field.

The Centre conducts documentation and research, and publishes results of such activities in a number of articles, books, CDs and DVDs every year, aiming both at elementary level and at higher education and research. It also maintains the largest archive in Norway in its fields and serves as resource centre for organizations, schools, students and researchers. In cooperation with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology it gives BA and MA degrees, has PhD students and is part of international research projects.

Relationship of the Organization with Intellectual Property Matters:

The Expert Council and the Centre has followed discussions on safeguarding of folklore, later intangible cultural heritage right since they were established in the early 1970's, particularly within the framework of UNESCO. The Director has been called upon several times to take part in UNESCO's work in different ways. The Norwegian folk music scene has also been concerned with the problems of copyright issues. The question has been discussed in conferences and meetings and with national organizations that collect copyright money. No conclusion has been reached from these discussions yet. Therefore the Council and the whole Norwegian folk music scene is very interested in following WIPO's work in the field, hoping to be able to support it both at home and internationally.

The Council made the following decision on its last meeting in June 2008:

1. Stiftinga Rådet for folkemusik og folkedans (Rff) apply for status as observer in the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore (IGC).
2. Rff approaches the Norwegian Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs to be consulted on issues of work in its field of expertise within the Committee.
3. Rff has the intention to arrange an European Conference, asking for cooperation with WIPO and the Norwegian Ministry of Culture and Church Affairs to raise a discussion within our field of expertise on the status and attitudes concerning the work to establish an intellectual property right protection for folklore.

Countries in which the Organization is primarily active:

The Foundation with its expert council and its research centre was primarily set up to work in Norway. Consequently, we work with rather than in other countries through organizations, networks, and projects of education and research: staff members are or have been board members of organizations like the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM), European Seminar in Ethnomusicology (ESEM), Ethnochoreology study group of ICTM, Nordic forum for dance research and Nordic association of folk dance research.

The centre cooperates with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology to offer a Nordic master degree in dance studies with the universities of Copenhagen, Stockholm and Tampere and coordinates an Erasmus intensive program with universities in the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Lithuania, Romania, Sweden, Turkey and the UK. It has bilateral agreements and less formalized cooperation with universities and expert institutions in yet more countries, even outside Europe.

Full Contact Information:

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and Traditional Dance  
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Website: [www.rff-sentret.no](http://www.rff-sentret.no)

Organization Representative:

Professor Egil Bakka.

### Rromani Baxt

#### Main Objectives of the Organization:

- Promotion and popularization of the culture, arts and traditions of the Rromani heritage and creations in the European Union and other countries.
- Cultural emancipation of the Rromani people from their position of injustice and subjection in which most Rroms live currently: campaign against illiteracy; valorization and circulation of traditional knowledge and modern creation; advisory and training in medicine, law, economics and administration among the Rroms from both the traditional and a western-type scholarly approaches.
- Popularization of the cultural and artistic achievements of Rromani creative artist or of any persons whose activity deals with Rromani themes, including artistic production in Rromani language.
- Popularization of the standard Rromani language and its introduction into public life as well as the support to, and realization of, researches on Rromani linguistic ethnology, sociology and similar disciplines.
- Information of mass media about the Rroms in order to build up a more accurate public image of the Rroms and of their contribution to the world's culture.
- Co-operation with other minorities (especially, but not only, those without compact territory in Europe) in terms of mutual support and networking in order to promote a better perception of the European diversity, mutual respect and harmony (from the statutes para. 14).

#### Main Activities of the Organization:

Since its creation in 1991, "Rromani Baxt" has focused its activities mainly in the realm of education with the opening of a multi-cultural kindergarten in Tirana, where older pupils also can complement their education in evening classes. This was followed by similar centers in other parts of Albania (Fier, Baltez, Korça etc...). Education against trafficking of humans beings was also achieved with success, including repatriation of trafficked persons.

Different activities have been carried out in other countries, mainly collecting of oral heritage and ethno texts, as well as publications in Rromani and other languages. In this context, Rromani Baxt endeavors to maintain a vivid circulation, among pupils and young adults in contact with elder adults, of the non-tangible heritage of the Rromani culture in order to promote and revive this heritage, in response to the current context of worldwide cultural homogenization.

Other crucial activities of the organization are: information of Rromani people about their rights; counseling and legal defense in cases of discrimination as well as advocacy among local, national and European authorities.

Rromani Baxt has also produced a number of CDs and is currently attempting to produce DVDs.

#### Relationship of the Organization with Intellectual Property matters:

Several times, our organization has been facing surprising situations, where people from various background have collected in the past elements of non-tangible Rromani heritage and published or otherwise circulated them under their own copyright without any compensation to the persons from whom they had collected these texts, melodies and/or traditional know-how. In addition, the informants themselves and their descendants have been deprived of their right of using publicly, even with non-profit purposes, the elements they had disclosed previously to these collectors (in some cases under threat, like in some eastern countries where the collector operated under a pretended quality of policeman).

In 2005, the song writer Goran Bregović has copyrighted the traditional Rromani song “Herdelèzi – Đurdevdani” under the Cinezik label. This song, performed during a seasonal ritual celebrating springtime, is now under the protection of a copyright which prevents any Rromani artist to perform and broadcast it for commercial purpose.

Our objective is to give the Rroms a free access to their own heritage, without any royalty to be paid to the collectors, irrespectively of the conditions in which the disclosure has been completed. We also consider that no money, paid by a private individual to another private individual, can be paid to prevent a whole people from using its heritage. The crucial point is therefore not to promote the idea of financial compensation but only to grant fees access to the exploitation of texts, melodies and know-how by people or groups, irrespectively of their ethnic background, in so far they are striving to promote this heritage, as well among Rroms as among mainstream populations.

Accordingly, it seems to us necessary to produce a code of good behavior in terms of respect for collective intellectual rights and make them inalienable to their population of origin.

Therefore, it is very much needed to define:

- the notion of “population of origin” for non-tangible heritage,
- the mechanism of defense of these intellectual rights,
- the free access to this heritage,
- some restriction of access in case of private profit generating undertaking,
- the implementation and monitoring of such goals.



The exploitation of this heritage for artistic creation (movies, opera or similar) should also be probably to some extent regulated in order to avoid detrimental presentation of this heritage to the audience. Special attention should be paid to the dangers of tabooisation of this heritage, which instead of preserving it would lead to an accelerated process of destruction of this cultural good, which belong to all mankind.

The question of the intellectual property of translations should be examined separately.

Countries in which the Organization is primarily active:

Albania, Kosovo, France, Spain, Hungary, Romania, Poland and also other various European countries (including non EU members).

Additional information:

Rromani Baxt has been funded by the International Rromani Union, an NGO itself funded in 1971 in London, and registered at the ECOSOC of the UN (Roster D9424).

It is cooperating with a number of other Rromani and non-Rromani structures dedicated to Law, culture, museum, publishing etc, in the above mentioned countries, including State and local authorities.

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Organization Representative:

Mr. Marcel Courthiade, President.

Swiss Society for Ethnomusicology CH-EM

Main Objectives of the Organization:

The Swiss Society for Ethnomusicology CH-EM aims at promoting all efforts to document, research, study and distribute traditional and popular music of all countries, including their dances and other performing arts. The CH-EM, as national Committee Switzerland, represents the interests of the International Council for Traditional Music ICTM in Switzerland. Membership is open to individuals and institutions concerned with or interested in the activities of the CH-EM.

Main Activities of the Organization:

The Swiss Society for Ethnomusicology CH-EM is the main network institution for ethnomusicologists in Switzerland. As an academic society it offers a platform for scholars to present their research projects, to get advice from colleagues and to be assisted in making their research results known to the public. The Swiss Society for Ethnomusicology CH-EM was founded in 1994 by the members of the ICTM Swiss National Committee, thereby continuing the task of representing Switzerland in the international Council for Traditional Music ICTM. Membership is open to individuals and institutions concerned with or interested in the activities of the CH-EM. The society's statutes are accessible online ([www.ch-em.ch](http://www.ch-em.ch)).

Relationship of the Organization with Intellectual Property matters:

The CH-EM is concerned about misappropriation and misuse of traditional cultural expressions and has great interest in an outcome of the IGC's negotiations which carefully appraise the impact on traditional musical cultures and future research. As field research and archive staff, ethnomusicologists are constantly facing intellectual property questions concerning traditional cultural expressions. The CH-EM has followed the IGC's negotiations and wishes to contribute as an observer at the IGC discussions of legal mechanisms and practical tools for the protection of traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

The Swiss Society for Ethnomusicology CH-EM is primarily active in Switzerland. The society represents the interests of the International Council for Traditional Music ICTM in Switzerland. Members conduct field work in Switzerland and abroad.

Full Contact Information:

Swiss Society for Ethnomusicology CH-EM  
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Website: [www.ch-em.ch](http://www.ch-em.ch)

Organization Representative:

Dr. Marc-Antoine Camp.

### Youth Forum for Social Action (YFSA)

#### Main Objectives of the Organization:

- To prevent the tribal from excessive alcoholism.
- To generate comprehensive awareness on various issues among the Indigenous and disadvantaged sections of youths so as to solve their own problems and also to protect, preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of Indigenous/tribal peoples.
- To promote tribal value, culture, specific knowledge of intellectual property.
- Organize various seminar, workshop, camps etc. to generate comprehensive technical knowledge.
- To provide legal help to Indigenous people.
- To provide all types of employment oriented training to Indigenous youths.
- To open and run the school for the children of weaker sections of the society.

#### Main Activities of the Organization:

YFSA is a non political, non religious grassroots level non government organization. Significance of the organization is that all its members and chief functionaries are indigenous peoples and have greater insight, full commitment and dedication for comprehensive development of tribal. YFSA from its inception is carrying different programs and extending technical knowledge to the tribal youth including women at grassroots level. YFSA is implementing vocational guidance and training, food security (Village Grain Bank) and extending basic health to the poor tribal.

From the inception YFSA is raising issues against Human Rights Violation, Injustice, Atrocities at a National and International Level, Vocational Guidance and Career Counseling is a main function of the organization. However, in addition to it awareness generation, capacity building, village grain bank and vocational training, in swing etc. are the continuing activities of the organization. We had an experience of working with World Council of Churches (WCC) Geneva, Switzerland, in 1995, and with the United Nations Voluntary Fund Geneva in 2000 and with the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Women & Child Development in 2002, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in 2004. The main activities of the organization are capacitating the Indigenous people in all aspects of their survival. Documentation of facts and figures of various aspects of Indigenous people of the country. Undertaking socio-economic research on different problems of Indigenous and tribal people such as exodus of tribal women to metropolitan cities in India, physical and sexual exploitation and various other matters related to their lives.

Relationship of the Organization with Intellectual Property matters:

Since we are Indigenous people well connected with tribal value, culture, specific knowledge and we are rich in Intellectual property in almost all the aspects of our lives, survival, economy, art and culture, traditional medicine and healthy living, knowledge of treatment, application of (mantra) specific recital for fear and happiness in all aspects of life. All these traditional knowledge and property are gradually vanishing due to various reasons. All the knowledge and property need to be protected for survival of the Indigenous people of the region where we are active. In this context, our organization is active to protect and promote all the art form, culture, knowledge and Mantra etc. by organizing various festivals such as Karma, Sarhool, Domkutch, Khaddi etc. In this regard various workshops, seminars and group discussions have been organized by the organization. In addition to it to preserve the art form, nature and Mantra lots of occasions are being celebrated such as health, treatment, nutrition, convention of birth and death, religious matter, economy and rituals, etc, are being documented by the Organization in Hindi Language.

Additional Information:

Situation of the area where YFSA is active:

“Many centuries the Tribal People and other poor tribal communities lived in the isolated hills and forest of semi tropical island in eastern parts of Surguja District of Chhatisgarh utilizing a small amount of timber and forest products such as fruits and berries and still practicing a system of shifting cultivation. Even the Government service such as basic health and education, safe drinking water, adequate food and shelter remained minimal. However, over the last 20 years, the life of the tribal peoples, has changed drastically. More Government officials have been sent to the areas but often they have exploited the people rather than bring sensitive and positive development. The intrusion of outsider business interests, some time linked with corrupt official has been especially devastating and has resulted in large scale deforestation by illegal logger and commercial exploitation of the tribal people of the areas. The community habitat is being degraded, making economic viability less sustainable and culture is being broken down leading to the abuse of traditionally brewed alcohol and other problems.

Youth Forum for Social Action (YFSA), though it is an Indigenous/tribal organization works irrespective of caste, creed, religion, sex and gender. YFSA is a non political, non religious grassroots level voluntary organization registered under Madhya Pradesh Society Registration Act, 1973 on July 10, 1994. However, we are working among the people since June 1992. YFSA is active among the Indigenous Population of the Eastern part of Chhatisgarh, a newly carved out state from Madhya Pradesh, organizing Indigenous people on various matter including Human Rights Violation. Since our registered office is situated in the remote and inaccessible area where communication facilities are not available, hence, we have set up our Administrative Office at New Delhi in 1994 at House No. 373, Laxmi Bai Nagar, New Delhi – 110023, India for better coordination and proper communication.

**Vision of YFSA:** The vision of YFSA is caring, sharing, cooperation, transparency, democratically develop the tribal, protect tribal from exploitation & promote and preserved its rich cultural heritage by undertaking different programs.

**Mission of YFSA:** The Mission of YFSA is to establish a new peaceful, socio-economic, political-culture order which will help and enlighten TRIBAL COMMUNITIES to transform themselves into self reliant, self-governed, self respect and exploitation-free social structures, that will foster a healthy and appropriate environment for development of the tribal and other disadvantage. Preserve, protect and promote our rich cultural heritage and our intellectual property. To unit and to provide a common platform for the migrant young Indigenous women and to enable them to raise their voice effectively. Empowerment of Community and undertaking of sustainable and culturally appropriate development programs, to plan and implement for the peoples development are the mission and our long term goals.

**Expectation:** YSFA can achieve its goal only when philanthropists, experts, well wishers, decisions and policy makers, funding agencies including Foreign Donor Agencies extend their helping hands by Aid, sponsor, donation, contribution of funds and also extending expertise whenever and wherever necessary.

**Strategy of YFSA:** as we are tribal people, we have deep insight for the comprehensive welfare and development of the tribal and hence our approach is directly to empower this disadvantaged section.

**Future plan:** Dream of tomorrow:

YFSA – integrated Development Programmes through Aid, sponsor, awareness, motivation, promote or undertake activities leading to all round welfare and empowerment of our community with special emphasis on socially, culturally and economically disadvantaged sections of the society and migrant Indigenous young women.

**Education:** Open and run the quality educational institutions in the tribal pocket for the tribal women especially where the literacy is very low.

**Vocational Guidance and Training:** to empower Indigenous people, setting up of “Manpower Development and Career Counseling Unit in the district Headquarters called Ambikapur & to impart job oriented training to Indigenous youths.

**Protection, preservation and promotion:** Indigenous value, culture, knowledge and rights in all aspects of our survival.

**Registered Office:** Village Kandri, Post Office Chando, Via Balrampur, District - Surguja, Chhatisgarh.

Country in which the Organization is primarily active:

India. Our organization is active primarily in eastern parts of Chhatisgarh - Central India.

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Mr. Albel Kachhap, Secretary.

[End of Annex and of document]