

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

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

Fourth Session
Geneva, December 9 to 17, 2002

ADDENDUM TO ACCREDITATION OF CERTAIN ORGANIZATIONS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Annex to document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/4/2, entitled “Accreditation of Certain Organizations,” lists a number of non-governmental organizations which requested, before October 11, 2002, to be granted observer status in sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, according to the Rules of Procedure (see paragraph 8 of document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/1/2).
2. The Annex to the present document lists additional organizations, which, subsequent to October 11, 2002, have also requested observer status.
3. *The Intergovernmental Committee is invited to approve the representation in sessions of the Committee of the organization referred to in the Annex to this document, together with the organizations listed in the Annex to document WIPO/GRTKF/IC/4/2, entitled “Accreditation of Certain Organizations.”*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

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

American Indian Law Alliance (AILA)

Centre Togolais d'Assistance Juridique pour le Développement (CETAJUD)

Global Education and Environment Development Foundation (GEED-Foundation)

National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO)

Native American Rights Fund (NARF)

American Indian Law Alliance (AILA)

Description and Main Objectives:

The American Indian Law Alliance (AILA) is an Indigenous NGO with Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. AILA is located in New York City, where the United Nations has its headquarters. AILA works with others in their struggle for human rights for Indigenous Peoples. AILA supports their traditional elders and leaders and are accountable to the communities they serve and to the seventh generation yet unborn.

The purpose of AILA is to serve their peoples and work to elevate the plight of Indigenous Peoples into the arena of international awareness and policy. AILA believes that justice in the world community of nations will translate into healing in their own communities. On a national and international level, AILA organizes and advocates on behalf of and with Indigenous Peoples from around the world, additionally publishing handbooks that deal with issues specific to Indian people.

AILA serves as a bridge between grassroots Native communities and the international community of Indigenous Peoples, organizations, and Nations. AILA translates local needs into international languages and international policies into local language. They are a bridge for grassroots concerns to find expression in international forums that can respond to their issues. AILA 'stand in the gap' between their communities' needs and the resources available.

Relationship with Intellectual Property matters:

Intellectual Property matters are a major concern for the Indigenous Peoples, Nations and communities AILA serves. All over the world, Indigenous Peoples' intellectual property rights are compromised or disregarded. Intellectual property of Indigenous Peoples is often appropriated without their free, prior and informed consent or in violation of their laws, traditions and customs. Existing protection mechanisms are insufficient for the protection of Indigenous Peoples' intellectual property rights.

Countries in which the Organization is primarily active:

United States of America; Switzerland.

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Organization Representative:

Mr. Stefan Disko

Centre Togolais d'Assistance Juridique pour le Développement (CETAJUD)

Description:

- Convinced that the development of any State flows from the flourishing of the civil society;
- Convinced that the basis of democracy is through the reinforcement of education to the citizens;
- Activists of human right in particular that of magistrates and lawyers;
- The *Centre Togolais d'Assistance Juridique pour le Développement* (CETAJUD), which members consists of professors and sociologists, was created on April 8, 2000 in Lomé by an executive committee consisting of 9 members.

Objectives:

The CETAJUD aims to:

- promote the 30 rights proclaimed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- facilitate and support the development of the civil society;
- initiate programmes of information, formation and awareness-raising of the law;
- contribute to the emergence of a reliable legal system in Togo;
- help NGOs and the trade unions to fully play their roles in the promotion of the state of Supervisor laws for elections.

Activities:

- Create and implement projects of awareness-raising of the law;
- Organize conferences, seminars and talks of proximity in the direction of the social layers targeted on the rights and obligations resulting from the citizenship;
- Produce publications;
- Take part in seminars both on a national and international level.

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Organization Representative:

Judge Adomayakpor Komlan, President of the CETAJUD, Adviser at the Court of Appeal of Lomé.

Global Education and Environment Development Foundation (GEED-Foundation)

GEED-Foundation Cameroon was founded by a group of development practitioners and farmers, after a study carried out by a student on internship in some villages of the North West Province. This study highlighted the serious lack of awareness in innovative developmental aspects as well as continuous environmental degradation. This immediately provoked the idea to create a means by which a community-based forum for; awareness creation, capacity building, functional literacy, talks on reproductive health and on-the-field intervention with farmers can be effected, through which illiteracy, poor health, poverty and environmental degradation could be combated. GEED Cameroon is apolitical and neutral in executing all its activities and works with all regardless of tribe, race, religion and nationality.

Aims:

- to fight the underprivileged position of some people in Cameroon especially women through education and training;
- to provoke indigenous skills development among the underprivileged communities of Cameroon;
- to encourage sustainable agriculture by encouraging large-scale production of foodstuff, livestock, erosion control and pasture improvement;
- to encourage good governance amongst women and men in leadership position;
- to encourage functional learning and child education;
- to contribute to the peace building process in the world;
- to ensure reproductive health through health talks and education;
- to assist in community mobilization towards good portable water construction; and,
- to educate the communities on proper sewage/garbage disposal, pollution control and environmental education.

Objectives:

- Social justice is negotiated through literacy, non-conflict management, mediation, gender empowerment and reproductive health;
- Seeking to facilitate practical skill development, capacity building, and micro enterprise development;
- Facilitating organizational development in other organizations working in the field;
- Ensuring environmental conservation, development and management;
- Communities are strengthened to activate existing water projects and mobilize their own resources towards new innovative schemes;
- A mechanism is established, which promotes learning through monitoring, evaluation and research as well as reviewing the approach.

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National Aboriginal Health Organization (NAHO)

The National Aboriginal Health Organization is an Aboriginal designed and controlled body, which will influence and advance the health and well-being of Aboriginal Peoples through carrying out knowledge-based strategies. The NAHO is unique in that they are founded on and are committed to unity while respecting diversity gather, create, interpret, disseminate, and use knowledge on Aboriginal traditional and western contemporary healing and wellness approaches view community as the primary focus and view research methodologies as tools for supporting Aboriginal communities in managing health reflect the values and principles contained in traditional knowledge and practices

Objectives:

- To improve and promote health through knowledge-based activities;
- To promote understanding of health issues affecting Aboriginal Peoples;
- To facilitate and promote research and develop research partnerships;
- To foster participation of Aboriginal Peoples in the delivery of health care; and,
- To affirm and protect Aboriginal traditional healing practices.

Relationship with Intellectual Property matters:

Intellectual property issues affect all five of the objectives of their organization. Of particular interest to them, however, are activities at the international level which will impact their objectives toward affirming and promoting traditional healing practices. NAHO is interested in both the possibility of identifying and utilizing current intellectual property regimes and/or *sui generis* alternatives in the protection and promotion of traditional healing practices and medicines. Intellectual property issues will also have an effect on their objectives with respect to the development of research partnerships in Aboriginal communities.

Country of primary activity:

Canada

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Organization Representative:

James Lamouche, Policy Analyst, Indigenous Knowledge/Traditional Practices and Medicines

Native American Rights Fund (NARF)

The Native American Rights Fund (NARF) is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization that provides legal representation and technical assistance to Indian tribes, organizations and individuals – a constituency that often lacks access to the justice system. NARF is an ECOSOC accredited organization and focuses on applying existing laws and treaties to guarantee that national and state governments live up to their existing obligations.

The Native American Rights Fund is headquartered in Boulder, Colorado with branch offices in Washington, D.C. and Anchorage, Alaska.

NARF is governed by a volunteer board of directors composed of thirteen Native Americans from different tribes throughout the country with a variety of expertises in Indian matters. A staff of fifteen attorneys handles about fifty major cases at any given time, with most of the cases taking several years to resolve. Cases are accepted on the basis of their breadth and potential importance in setting precedents and establishing important principles of Indian law.

Early in NARF's existence, the Board of Directors determined that the organization should concentrate on five priority areas:

1. Preservation of tribal existence

The future existence of the remaining Indian tribes in this country depends ultimately upon secure and permanent land bases, and rights of self-determination necessary to preserve traditional customs and ways of life.

2. Protection of tribal natural resources

The natural resources found on Indian lands vary greatly. NARF concentrates its efforts in asserting tribal resource rights and protecting them from loss and exploitation by non-Indians. Major resource protection includes land rights; water rights; hunting, fishing and gathering rights; environmental protection; timber rights; and prudent development of mineral resources.

3. Promotion of human rights

The Native American Rights Fund is concerned with securing basic human rights for Native Americans in such areas as education, health, housing and religion freedom rights.

4. Accountability of governments

NARF focuses much of its efforts on guaranteeing that the federal and state governments accountable for the proper recognition and enforcement of the many laws and regulations which govern the lives of Indian people.

5. Development of Indian Law and educating the public about Indian rights, laws and issues.

This involves not only the establishment of favorable court precedents in major areas of Indian law, but also the compilation and distribution of Indian law resources to everyone working on behalf of Indian rights

In pursuing these objectives, NARF has for the last few years turned to working in the international arena, focusing on the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples. The Organization has also begun work on intellectual property issues.

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[End of Annex and of document]