

International Coalition for the Decade Mid-decade Report

Name of the Organization : International Coalition for the Decade for the Promotion of a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World (2001-2010).

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ACTIONS ACCOMPLISHED FOR PROMOTING A CULTURE OF PEACE
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I. ACTIONS ACCOMPLISHED

1. Aims :

The main aims of the Coalition are the following:

- Promoting the International Decade for a Culture of Non-Violence and Peace;
- Coordinating the actions of its members, in this field, through sharing information, resources and experiences, particularly in the field of education of peace and non-violence;
- Supporting the creation of new national coalitions in order to contribute to the visibility of the decade in as many countries as possible;
- Representing, at the international level, its member coalitions, in international institutions, as well as before the media;
- Coordinating actions or campaigns led, at the international level, under the theme of the Decade, especially those actions that cannot be efficiently assumed by the national coalitions alone at this time, as well as supporting international solidarity actions and campaigns on the questions of non-violence and peace.

2. Beneficiaries

The beneficiaries of the actions of the International Coalition for the Decade are mainly its members. There are currently 16 members in the Coalition that are divided into two categories :

- National coalitions :

- Comitato Italiano per il Decennio
- Coordination française pour la Décennie
- Österreichisches Netzwerk für Frieden und Gewaltfreiheit

- Platform voor een Cultuur van Vrede en Geweldloosheid
- International associations (active members):
 - Caritas Internationalis
 - FiACAT (Fédération internationale des ACAT, Action des Chrétiens pour l'Abolition de la Torture)
 - Franciscains International
 - Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers)
 - International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR)
 - Pax Christi International
 - Pax Romana / MIIC
 - Réseau Foi, Culture et Education (Afrique Centrale)
 - Women's International League for Freedom and Peace (WILFP)
- International associations (observing members) :
 - Le Conseil Oecuménique des Eglises (COE)
 - Le Conseil Pontifical Justice et Paix
 - Servicio Paz y Justicia en America Latina (SERPAJ)

All the national associations that are members of either the national coordinations or the international associations – several hundreds in all - are also beneficiaries of the International Coalition's actions.

3. Location of Activities :

The International Coalition for the Decade has started a number of various activities. Thus, the locations of activities are also various. These activities have been the following:

- Participation in various initiatives :
 - In 2003, Vincent Pasquini, in charge of the secretariat at the time, gave a conference in Italy, on the theme of the International Decade, at the request of the Italian Coalition.
 - From the 12th to the 15th of novembre 2003, the International Coalition for the Decade participated in the European Social Forum held in Paris. It animated two workshops on the International Decade, held by Jeanne-Henriette Louis and Christian Renoux (members of the administrative board).
 - In June 2004, the International Coalition participated in the First Salon for Peace Initiatives. It had a stand in the Salon and organized a conference on the International Decade where Christian Renoux and Patrick Edou (members of the administrative board) were the main speakers.
 - In January 2005, the International Coalition co-organized, on the occasion of the Porto Alegre World Social Forum, a workshop on the theme of « non-violent solutions for countries in conflict ».
 - The International Coalition plans to organize an international conference on the theme of the Decade on the occasion of the Second Salon for Peace Initiatives in June 2006.
- Various creations :
 - The International Coalition has created a multilingual website (in English, French, Italian, German and Spanish) at the following address : www.nvpdecade.org
 - It also issues a newsletter every three months, gathering information about the Coalition and its members. The newsletter can be downloaded at this address: <http://www.nvpdecade.org/english/bulletel.html>.
 - The International Coalition has created in 2003 an Honorary board that gathers so far seven members: Anwarul K. Chowdhury (Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the UN), Dalai Lama (Peace Nobel Prize Laureate), Hildegard Goss-

Mayr (Peace Niwano Prize Laureate), Mairead Maguire (Peace Nobel Prize Laureate), Adolfo Pérez Esquivel (Peace Nobel Prize Laureate), Joseph Roblat (Peace Nobel Prize Laureate), Desmond Tutu (Peace Nobel Prize Laureate).

- Three Commissions have been created: Legal Document Commission, Education Commission and Artistic Commission.
- The International Coalition has elaborated a document giving indications to associations wishing to create national coalitions in their countries. It is available by simple request to the following address : secretariat@nvpdecade.org.

4. Committed Resources

Human and financial resources have been committed to these projects :

- Human resources :

- A person in charge of secretariat and administrative work
- Two volunteers, intervening on ad hoc missions.
- A volunteer who has created the website.
- All the members of the Administrative Board who are also members of the Commissions and who gather not only in their respective commissions' meeting, but also in the Administrative Board meetings held three times a year.

- Financial resources:

- The person in charge of the secretariat is paid, as a trainee, an indemnity of 250 euros monthly.
- A budget is committed for material needs.
- The International Conference, to be held in June 2006, will require a considerable budget. Fundraising requests are being currently submitted, especially to the Mairie de Paris.

5. Results

These various actions have led to several results :

- Better visibility :

- The five-language website, created in 2004, and the newsletter have given the International Coalition better visibility before the public and other associations.
- Participation in the European Social Forum, in the World Social Forum in January 2005 and in the International Salon for Peace Initiatives in Paris in June 2004 has also given more visibility to the International Coalition before individuals and associations at the international level.

- Concrete progress in the Commission's work :

- The Legal Document Commission has elaborated a text proclaiming the right of every person to an education of non-violence and peace.
- The artistic Commission is currently contacting several artists for the creation of a CD on peace destined to all the youth of the world.

- Enlargement of the International Coalition :

The International Coalition was created in June 2003. Since then, it has never stopped to seek enlargement through inviting more international associations to join it and supporting the creation of more national coalitions.

II. MAIN DIFFICULTIES FACED

The difficulties faced by the International Coalition for the Decade throughout the last two years are of various natures :

- Material difficulties :

The International Coalition's sources of income are mainly membership fees paid by its members as well as a subsidy paid by the Association Partage. This leads to a very limited budget that restricts the Coalition's projects.

A mission has been started to raise funds from some institutions and foundations.

- Organizational difficulties :

As its name indicates, the international Coalition is « international », a fact that poses problems of organization.

III. PRIVILEGED FIELDS

The international Coalition has chosen to privilege the education of non-violence and peace.

This choice has been made since, according to the Coalition's members, it is through the education of peace and non-violence that a culture of peace and non-violence can develop.

GENERAL PROGRESS TOWARDS A CULTURE OF PEACE

IV. PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS A CULTURE OF PEACE

Since its establishment in June 2003, the International Coalition for the Decade could see suggestive signs of progress towards a culture of peace :

- The first International Salon of Peace Initiatives, in which the International Coalition participated, attracted more than 10 000 visitors and 114 stands were held in it.
- A text has been adopted by the Council of Europe banning corporal punishment against children including within the family.

V. MAIN OBSTACLES

- A culture of violence still so present.
- Weak mediatization.
- Lack of sufficient financial and human resources.
- Lack of UNESCO support.

VI. MEANS FOR MEASURING PROGRESS

The International Coalition can measure the progress of its actions, mainly through statistics showing the number of visits on its website and the number of persons who subscribe spontaneously to receive the newsletter. Apart from this, no specific means has been established for assessing the actions of the International Coalition.

PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION

VII. PARTNERSHIP WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Being a "Coalition" in itself is an element of partnership for the International Coalition. However, the Coalition is also seeking to establish partnership with other organizations :

- The UNESCO : in February 2004, the International Coalition participated in a meeting with Aurore Salinas, the person in charge of the Decade in the UNESCO. Moreover, the international Coalition has submitted a request for consultative status in the UNESCO.
- The UN: the International Coalition has also submitted a request for consultative status in the UN
- Institutions : whenever it gets the chance, the International Coalition enters into partnership with other institutions. Thus, in December 2004, the International Coalition participated in the meeting of « Mayors for Peace in the Middle East » organized by the Mayor of Lyon.

VIII. THE UNESCO WEBSITE

The international Coalition knows the UNESCO website. It is registered in the site under « international organizations ». The resources offered by the website, especially UN resolutions, are of great value to the International Coalition.

ENGAGEMENT FOR NEW ACTIONS, INITIATIVES AND ORIENTATIONS FOR THE PURSUIT OF THE DECADE

IX. NEW ENGAGEMENTS FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

For the next five years, the International Coalition will be engaged in:

- Promoting the education of peace and non-violence.
- Writing an international legal text on the education of peace and non-violence.
- Promoting the International Decade for a Culture of Non-Violence and Peace.

X. MAIN FIELDS

- Reinforcing a culture of peace through education.
- Enhancing human rights respect.
- Ensuring equality between men and women.
- Supporting participative communication and free circulation of information and knowledge.