



*International Association of Economic and Social Councils
And Similar Institutions
(AICESIS)*

AICESIS MDGs AWARD 2012

INFORMATION NOTE AND APPLICATION



"We will have time to reach the Millennium Development Goals – worldwide and in most, or even all, individual countries – but only if we break with business as usual. We cannot win overnight. Success will require sustained action across the entire decade between now and the deadline. It takes time to train the teachers, nurses and engineers; to build the roads, schools and hospitals; to grow the small and large businesses able to create the jobs and income needed. So we must start now. And we must more than double global development assistance over the next few years. Nothing less will help to achieve the Goals."

*Kofi A. Annan
Former United Nations Secretary-General*

"The true measure of the success for the United Nations is not how much we promise, but how much we deliver for those who need us most"

*Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary-General*

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I. INFORMATION NOTE

Introduction

AICESIS has been an intergovernmental organization in observer status with ECOSOC since 2001. In partnership with the United Nations, the Association granted the first MDG award in Brazilia (Brazil) in November 2007. In the first round, the AICESIS MDG Award 2007 was dedicated to education and focused on NGOs and national Economic and Social Councils (ESCs). It was given by President LULA DA SILVA to the ESC of Côte d'Ivoire and Mali and also to the NGO "Foundation Hernandina" (Argentina) and "Good Neighbours International" (Republic of Korea).

Following discussions with the former chair held by Brazil (New York, July 2008 and Brazilia, September 2008), it was decided that a second round of awards would be given in 2010. In the second round priority will be given to the theme, "Promote gender equality and empower women" (MDG 3), the ECOSOC theme for 2010, and will focus on universities and academic institutions. The winners were announced at the General Assembly of AICESIS which took place in New York (United States) in July 2010.

The award ceremony was held at the General Assembly of AICESIS in Rome (Italy) on July 21, 2011. The prize assigned by the President of the Italian Republic, S.E. Giorgio NAPOLITANO, to Social Watch Benin (introduced by the ESC of Benin), Coordination of Gabonese Women NGOs - CENAF (ESC of Gabon), Centro Universitario Metodista - IPA (CDES of Brazil), and Mumbai Educational Trust - MET (India) presented by the network UN-ONG- IRENE.

A third edition of the "AICESIS MDG Awards 2012" was approved by the AICESIS Board (2-3 December, Tunis, Tunisia). The third prize is devoted to **"full employment, decent and productive work for poverty reduction (MDG 1 and 8)**. The summit on the MDGs in September 2010 adopted a final document that draws lessons from the experience of the last decade and sets up an action plan with recommendations for advancing the implementation of each goal. Including the commitment to new macroeconomic and sectoral policies for building productive capacities, promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all, included by implementing the Global Compact for employment.

This commitment, major accomplishment of the summit: **"Full and productive employment and decent work for all"** was not part of the original framework of the MDGs, yet it is through the expansion of jobs and better livelihoods, as we have observed reductions in poverty.

AICESIS MDGs Award 2012 can play a major role in mobilizing and promoting the MDGs and must be considered instrumental in developing innovative activities from ESCs and NGOs on the theme. The award supports in time of crisis, to recognize and encourage the works of these institutions which help the political leaders to take the best decisions for all.

1. BACKGROUND

What are the Millennium Development Goals?

"The Millennium Development Goals were adopted ten years ago by whole world's Governments as a blueprint for building a better world in the 21st century."

The MDGs promote poverty reduction, education, gender equality, maternal health, and aim at

combating child mortality, AIDS and other diseases.

With a due date for 2015, the MDGs are an agreed set of goals. Poor countries are committed to sound management of their economies, to ensure their own development and to meet human and social needs of their populations. Developed countries on their part are pledged to support them through their assistance, reducing their debt by trading with them more fairly.

The idea of the AICESIS MDGs Award was the outcome of one of the main recommendations of the four Regional Round Tables held in Paris, Algiers, Brasilia and Beijing on the theme: “Development of new programs for educational and instructional tools based on the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in partnership with the AICESIS (International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions), civil society and university institutions such as the Institute of Political Sciences (Paris, France)”.

The 8 Millennium Development Goals:

- 1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- 2) Achieve universal primary education
- 3) Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4) Reduce child mortality
- 5) Improve maternal health
- 6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7) Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8) Develop a global partnership for development

2. ORGANIZERS

AICESIS

The International Association of Economic and Social Councils and Similar Institutions (AICESIS) is an intergovernmental organization regrouping the Economic and Social Councils of 65 countries in Africa, Europe, Latin America and Asia.

The object of the Association shall be, with a total respect for the independence of each of its members, to encourage and promote dialogue and exchanges between its members and, at a wider level, to encourage dialogue between economic and social partners in the world.

The Association will encourage the creation of ESCs in states which do not yet possess them and will contribute, through the exchange of work and the organization of meetings, to the prosperity and economic development of peoples and to the emergence, in mutual respect and peace, of democratic civil societies in accordance with the principles of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

UN NGO IRENE

The UN-NGO-IRENE based on the Internet strives to fulfill its commitment to strengthening the partnership between the United Nations and Non-governmental organizations worldwide. It acts as a network for communication and information exchange between national and regional “Organizations” in consultative status and the NGO Section/UNDESA.

UN NGO IRENE acts as a mechanism to enhance the role and the impact of the NGO Sector and to strengthen their contribution to the ECOSOC work in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and promoting partnership with the UN.

The NGO Section/DESA promoted the establishment of an informal regional network of “Organizations” (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 2002 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.

The Network provides action-oriented guidance and support within the framework of the MDGs to enable network participants to ensure that their contribution and that of the NGO sector as a whole will be truly significant in furthering achievement of the MDGs.

Respective roles

- AICESIS, supported by AIFOMD (International Association of Trainers on MDGs), UN-ONG-IRENE, UNITAR and ECOSOC, is responsible for the promotion and dissemination of information and applications.
 - For the Secretariat general, Mrs. Hanifa Mezoui, Permanent Representative of AICESIS to the United Nations and ECOSOC, will be responsible for the organization and programming of the awards, will provide administrative assistance and submit the final applications to the jury for review and selection.
 - A general coordination of the AICESIS’ award (Presidency and SG) will be provided for raising funds for the prize, jury’s composition and support, general programming and information.
 - Special role of national ESCs: to provide information about the award, encourage candidates to apply, group candidates by country and select a finalist from each country.
- NB: each ESC will present one candidate per country.

3. THEME

Full employment, decent and productive work for poverty reduction (MDG 1 and 8)

Given the theme of the ECOSOC adopted for the year 2012: “*Promoting productive capacity, employment, and decent work to eradicate poverty in the context of inclusive, sustainable and equitable economic growth at all levels for achieving the MDGs*”, it is proposed to link the theme of the AICESIS MDG Awards 2012 and the ECOSOC objectives associated with Goal 1 and Goal 8: “Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger” and “Develop a global partnership for development”.

4. NATURE OF THE AWARD

One or more awards may be granted, depending on quality and relevant of the applications as well as the impact and the nature of the activities presented: trophies and financial price(s) (if funding or external partnership is found).

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ESC members of AICESIS
- NGO members of the UN-ONG-IRENE network, having established relationships with socio-professional organizations

6. QUESTIONNAIRE AND SELECTION CRITERIA

- Name of the organization and executive head, members, contact information
- Objectives and area of activities
- Detailed description of the MDG activity “**Full and productive employment and decent work for all**”, including dates of events, goal setting, targeted groups and sites, number of participants involved, potential partnerships, financial resources committed (number of persons involved and budget allocation)
- Evaluation of the impact of the activity “**Full and productive employment and decent work for all**”, value added, benefit for those affected; innovativeness; difficulties; sustainability of the activity.

To select the winners, the panel will take notice of the following criteria:

- Create or improve an educational plan for people with a disadvantaged background.
- Develop and try out new educational tools for such people.
- Mobilize the available capacity of the environment in order to develop a true primary education

7. THE JURY

- One representative of ESC/SI from Asia
- One representative of ESC/SI from Africa
- One representative of ESC/SI from Latin America
- Representative of Presidency from AICESIS
- General Secretariat of AICESIS: Mrs. Hanifa Mezoui hanifa.mezoui@lecese.fr

Please note that:

- Entries will be considered objectively and according to their relative merits.
- All jury’s decisions are final, and without appeal.
- The documents submitted will not be returned.
- Participating “Organizations” agree that all necessary information could be used in promotional materials relating to the awards.

8. SELECTION PROCEDURE

Organizations conduct their own appointment on the basis of projects related to the support and the MDGs. The files will then be reviewed by the ESC of residence, or, if there is no ESC in the resident country, in conjunction with the Secretary-General of AICESIS.

9. DEADLINE

- July 2011: Announcing decision by the General Assembly in Rome
 - September 2011: dissemination of the information (award description, questionnaire, applications) by AICESIS to ESC members of AICESIS
 - October 2011-February 2012: information about the award, soliciting of candidatures, national selections
 - March-April 2012: final review of applications
 - End of May 2012: meeting of the jury and selection of prize laureates
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II- Application for the “AICESIS MDG Award 2010”

Composition:

- Questionnaire below filled out
- Organization statute
- The organization has been in existence for two years and has been active towards the MDG 3 for the current year
- Recommendation letter
- Any other information pertinent to the theme: Articles appearing in newspapers, professional journals, newsletters or other publications, Digital standard format video less than 10 minutes in length, Photographs and/or other graphic material, Brochure or other promotional material

Applications can be made in one of the 6 languages recognized by the UN (English, Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese and Arabic), but an English translation has to be provided in case of a non English application.

All applicants if needed may contact the AICESIS General Secretariat coordinator to get assistance to fill their submission form in compliance with the criteria and the regulations of the Award.

1- Name and acronym of the organization

2- Contact Information

- Permanent Headquarter Address:

- Telephone:

- Fax:

- Name and position of the contact person:

- E-mail address:

- Address of the Website:

3- Summarize the aims, purposes and activities of your organization.

4- How the Millennium Declaration approved in September in 2000, the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the most recent UN reports have been widely discussed in your Institution?

5- What are the roots of your project? (Initiative, motivation...)?

6- Which means (human, financial, technical means) have been used to reach the Millennium Development Goal 3: “**Full and productive employment and decent work for all**”? Please send us a list.

7- Please explain the projects your organization has implemented towards the achievement of the MDG “**Full and productive employment and decent work for all**”.

8- Please detail the campaigns your organization launched to support the MDG 3.

a) In your opinion, what are the progresses and results accomplished by your organization to attain “**Full and productive employment and decent work for all**”?

b) What are the progresses planned by your organization in order to reach “**Full and productive employment and decent work for all**” by 2015?

9- Why should the 2012 MDG Award be presented to your organization?

I assert the information above is exact

Date and signature