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**Preliminary outline of a draft proposal of a WSA UN policy framework
version 3**

Introduction

- This document presents a proposal of a WSA UN policy framework to guide the activities of WSA, SDIA and other affiliates at the UN. This policy document will be reviewed and cleared by the WSC and the SDI Board and presented to the next World Subud Congress for its consideration and approval.
- This policy document is based on our practice and experience at the UN . It is a follow-up to the SUBUD UN white paper which was approved by the WSC at its 2003 meeting in Brazil; it takes into consideration the recommendations made by the World Subud Congress and the WSC.
- The document starts with a short history of Subud at the UN. It then presents a proposal of the goals we aim at through our activities at the UN and of a strategy and a set of policies to achieve these goals and to guide our participation at the UN; this is followed by the proposal of an organizational set-up to manage our UN related activities; it concludes with a proposal of a process for monitoring, evaluating and continuously improving our UN policy framework and our contribution and activities.

Subud and the UN

The initial reason for participating in the United Nations (UN) was in response to Bapak's vision of the future and his wish that Subud as an organization play a role in the international field.

The first reference to the UN in a talk by Bapak dates back to 1967 where it is expressed as a wish quoting "some members who say jokingly how good it would be if delegates at the United Nations were conscious of a harmonious way of living according to the will of God.If it were possible....." Cilandak, 22 August. At the Asian counsellors' meeting in 1974 (Cilandak, 12 April), the wish becomes a hope that Subud people would be at the UN to use their special capacity to bring peace to mankind and in particular to control the use of nuclear weapons. On his 1981 world tour, on two successive nights in London in March as well as in Baden, Austria, in May Bapak appears determined that Subud should be in the UN. After saying that the UN was just a place where people quarrelled, Bapak said, "By some means, whatever it is, we have to get in there so that those who speak in the United Nations can receive the latihan." London, 23 March. Bapak referred to the UN on other occasions as well, not recorded, and on one of these he even designated two prominent Subud members to go to the UN to speak about Subud.

At the time, a few Subud members were in fact holding high level positions at the UN in New York and Vienna. One of them, Varindra Vittachi, the Subud international chairperson, always willing to make Bapak's wishes a reality, was holding a top position at UNICEF in New York. He took up the matter seriously with the assistance of his colleague and compatriot Edmund Kerner and others, making the first steps to enable Subud as an organization to participate in the UN. The NGO Liaison Office at the UN was approached for consultative status by the Subud Brotherhood International Foundation (SBIF), then the only officially registered international body, and one which included all Subud international activity. Apparently the first reaction of the Liaison Officer was that a name comprising the word "brotherhood" wouldn't look good in the UN as it was associated with fundamentalism. Another point was that the scope and aims of SBIF needed more clarity and focus for it to be considered for UN ECOSOC consultative status.

Therefore, as obtaining UN consultative status for Subud as a whole seemed unlikely, it was the international organization Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA) set up to take care of the charitable aims hitherto part of SBIF, which was to apply to the UN on behalf of Subud.

Wilbert Verheyen of SDIA and his team together with Edmund Kerner worked on the UN questionnaire in the course of 1988/89 providing also a Constitution and other required documents. Thanks to able lobbying they passed the screening test by 19 government delegates.

SDIA was granted UN ECOSOC consultative status in May 1989, with all of the 8500 Subud members listed by country as its members and with the link to Subud clearly indicated. As SDIA was not yet registered, it is unclear which Constitution was deposited with the UN.

See Annex for excerpts from Bapak's talks and more detailed information.

Goals

- Our participation at the UN should contribute to XXXXX

We propose to include here a short text on what we mean by the development of humanity in line with Susila Budhi Dharma and with the mission and goals of WSA, SDIA and other affiliates....

- We are committed to the UN Charter and to its mission and aims toward peace, security and sustainable development. We contribute in particular to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.
- Our participation at the UN should demonstrate the positive results of Subud members work, experience and knowledge in a variety of fields, including social, educational, health, environmental, human rights, inter-religious dialogue and humanitarian and peace-building activities.
- Our participation at the UN should also contribute to building the awareness and knowledge of Subud members and organizations on global trends, challenges and issues.

Strategy

This part presents the strategy we want to follow in our participation at the UN to reach our vision and our goals

- We promote and support integrated, participatory and community based strategies and approaches which aim at sustainable development and which stress the dignity and freedom of persons, enhance their talents and capabilities, and respect their fundamental human rights including religious freedom.
- We promote and support multicultural diversity and an open dialogue between civilizations and religions. We stress in particular the experiential aspect that all religions have in common and we respect the divine receiving in each tradition. We support the exchange of experiences of the divine and attempts to show how these experiences contribute to human development and society. We support religions as a social force that enables humans to become more human and to develop as such.
- Our activities include participation in UN and NGO UN related meetings and forums as well as in world conferences. We also participate in partnerships with UN agencies and other NGOs in the design and implementation of programmes and projects at global, national and local levels.

Policy guidelines

This part presents the policies which guide our participation at the UN and which need to be followed by WSA, SDIA and the other SUBUD affiliates when engaged in activities at the UN

- Our actions, policies and positions are in line with the Principles, requirements and conditions as laid out in UN ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31 which defines the principles, and the consultative arrangements between the UN and NGOs.
- In our activities at the UN, we promote values such as human rights, empowerment, peace, freedom, tolerance, justice, non-discrimination, dialogue between religions; we do not engage in the political activities of a political party, nor do we proselytize.
- The UN Policy framework is implemented by WSA, SDIA and the other concerned Affiliates through a process of dialogue, consensus and mutual respect and partnership and when needed, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
- Our stances and positions at the UN are developed through an open process of dialogue within and between Subud organizations, with NGOs active at the UN, and with other stakeholders.
- Our participation in campaigns organized by NGOs to mobilize world opinion and the endorsement of resolutions and statements at UN events have to be formally approved by a joint decision made by the WSA and SDIA Chairs.
- The UN Policy framework and its implementation are regularly reviewed by WSA, SDIA and the other concerned affiliates and improved as needed.

Organization and resources

This part presents the organizational arrangements and the resources needed to support the implementation of the UN Policy framework,

- SDIA holds special Consultative Status with UN ECOSOC, UNICEF and DPI, on behalf of WSA and other affiliates. This status includes the accreditation of UN representatives who are authorized by the UN to participate at UN events opened to NGOs.
- The UN Policy framework is implemented under the joint responsibility of the WSA and SDIA Chairs; this includes the selection of UN Representatives among candidates proposed by WSA, SDIA and other concerned affiliates.
- A United Nations Working Group (UNWG) is responsible for managing the SUBUD activities at the UN. It is established and co-chaired by the WSA and SDIA Chairs and under the authority of the WSA and SDIA Boards. It is supported by the WSA Executive and by an administrative secretariat located in SDIA.
- The members of the UNWG are selected and appointed by the WSA and SDIA co-chairs. They include the executive officers in charge of the UN activities in WSA, SDIA and the other affiliates concerned, the UN representatives and other Subud members selected on the basis of their capabilities and their knowledge of the UN.
- The responsibilities of the UNWG include :
 - formulate, implement and monitor a programme of activities at the UN;
 - identify and select meetings, conferences and forums to be attended;
 - prepare and approve draft statements to be proposed at UN events
 - organize within Subud workshops and events on UN related issues.
- The Administrative Secretariat for the UN activities is located within the SDIA Office. It will be responsible for the following activities in co-operation with and with the support of the UNWG :

- Maintain correspondence and registration with UN's ECOSOC, UNICEF and DPI, as well as key NGO committees (CONGO, UN Committee on Human Rights, UNICEF's NGO Committee) or other NGO committees as recommended by the UNWG.
 - Complete and submit Quadrennial Reports on all activities of Subud members and UN representatives.
 - Accredite and register UN Representatives to UN meetings, conferences and forums.
 - Support, orient, facilitate attendance and provide information to Representatives and Delegates attending UN meetings
- The Budget for the UN activities including the costs related to the UN Representatives will be financed under one budget to be prepared by the UNWG and to be submitted for funding to WSA, SDIA and other affiliates concerned, and to other funding sources.

Monitoring and Evaluation

This part presents a process of Monitoring, evaluation and improvement of the WSA UN Policy framework

- The UNWG is responsible for monitoring, evaluating and improving the implementation of UN Policy framework and of the UN activities. It will submit an annual report to the WSC, to the SDIA Board and to the boards of the other affiliates concerned. A report will also be presented to the World Subud Congresses including recommendations for improving the WSA UN Policy framework.
- The UNWG working Group will organize workshops to enable UN Representatives and other Subud members involved in UN activities to share lessons and experiences, to review and improve our positions and interventions and to propose improvements in the UN Policy framework.

ANNEX

Introduction to the policy document on Subud at the United Nations

The initial reason for participating in the United Nations was in response to Bapak's vision of the future and his wish that, as an organization, Subud play a role in the international field. He did not seem to have a good opinion of the way the delegates to the United Nations behaved and believed that the involvement of Subud members would bring harmony and a spiritual dimension.

The first reference to the United Nations in a talk dates back to 1967 where it is expressed as an almost unattainable wish

There are some brothers who, jokingly, say how good and excellent it would be if the delegates from the various countries who meet in the United Nations to discuss the problems of their various countries were filled with a spirit of mutual understanding, and were aware and conscious of a harmonious way of living one with another, according to the Will of Almighty God that has been implanted within man's self.

Yes, indeed, it would be good if it were possible, for usually people only think of their own interests and the interests of their own group and their own nation. This is the reason why Bapak says: "If it were possible", Cilandak 22 August 1967

At the Asian counsellors' meeting in 1974 (Cilandak 12 April), the wish becomes a hope that Subud people would use their special capacity to bring peace to mankind.

The concern of the United Nations generally, at this time, is how to bring peace to mankind; how to bring peace to the different, warring, competing interests of different countries, of different groups; how to ensure that war does not break out, and how to limit the use of destructive weapons; how to try to make sure that the weapons of tremendous power and destruction which have been invented by mankind, that is, nuclear bombs and guided missiles and so on, are never used. Well, the hope of achieving this aim is to attract to Subud people whose responsibility it is to work in this capacity, in these negotiations; people who are responsible for the use of destructive weapons for waging war, and so on.

In a talk in Jakarta in 1980, Bapak describes his view of the United Nations

Through the teaching we receive in the latihan we begin to feel as real that it is God's will that different nationalities should be able to be in harmony with one another, and people of different religions as well.

Of course it is not only we in Subud who have this sort of idea. Mankind is trying in many ways to achieve some kind of harmony and cooperation, for this very reason men have set up the United Nations.

But because the United Nations is something established by the will of man, it is something where only the nafsu operate. The United Nations, to put it another way, has become nothing more than a great heap of nafsu brought together in one place all because it has been set up by man's own will.

The import of the U.N. is not of efforts of trying to help each other; not of a feeling of cooperation between nations: rather, it is of nations quarrelling. It has become nothing more than a place where each nation tries to maintain its own point of view and tries to get the better of everyone else 80 JKT 4 26 JULY 1980

On his 1981 world tour, on two successive evenings in London in March as well as in Baden Austria in May, Bapak appears determined that Subud should be in the UN. (At the time, a few Subud members were in fact holding high level positions at the UN in New York and Vienna.)

... This is very much needed at the present time, when a building constructed at a cost of millions or milliards of dollars is used just for quarrelling and disputing. What use is that? It proves that we should find a way to get in there, so that the people who make speeches at the United Nations meetings can receive the latihan kejiwaan. If it were we who made the speeches at the United Nations, we should know the uses of human life in this world, and it would not be possible to use nuclear weapons and atom bombs, because we understand the uses of life. But they do not understand. 22 March 1981

The world needs the latihan. The world really needs the latihan. Look in the United Nations. How many millions or billions of dollars have they spent to make the United Nations, and what is the use of it? It is Just a place where people come together to quarrel. By some means, whatever it is, we have to get in there so that those who speak in the United Nations can receive the latihan. If those people who quarrel in the United Nations could receive the latihan kedjiwaan, then they would understand what is the use of life, what is the use of human life in this world. 23 March 1981

Brothers and sisters, all of you, and especially those who work in the United Nations, know the state of the world today. You must be very well up on what is going on. But all of you are aware that actually nowadays everywhere throughout the world people fear for the future. People are afraid of what is going to happen in the world, and because of this situation it is very important that you understand the real nature and the real situation. 5 May 1981Baden

Bapak referred to the UN on other occasions as well, in smaller groups, not recorded. During one of these gatherings, Bapak even designated two prominent Subud members¹ to go to the UN to speak about Subud.

Varindra Vittachi, the Subud international chairperson, who was always willing to make Bapak's wishes a reality, was at the time holding a top UN position at the

¹ Sharif Horthy and Simon Guerrand. Cf letter from Wilbert Verhayen (WV) to Samuel Simonsson, White Paper, 2003.

UNICEF in New York² . He took up the matter seriously and with the assistance of his colleague and compatriot Edmund Kerner and others, made the first steps for Subud as an organization to be able to participate in the UN. The NGO Liaison Office at the UN was approached for consultative status by the Subud Brotherhood International Foundation (SBIF), then the only officially registered international body, and one which included all Subud international activity. Apparently the first reaction of the Liaison Officer was that a name comprising the word “brotherhood” wouldn’t look good in UN as it was associated with fundamentalism.³ Another point was that the scope and aims of SBIF needed more clarity and focus for it to be considered for ECOSOC status.

Therefore, as obtaining UN consultative status for Subud as a whole - as Bapak would no doubt have wished – seemed unlikely, it was the international organization Susila Dharma International Association set up to take care of the charitable aims of Subud, hitherto part of SBIF⁴, which was to apply to the UN on behalf of Subud.⁵

A first answer to the UN ECOSOC questionnaire for consultative status was sent by Wilbert Verhayen of Susila Dharma International in May 1988 with a Constitution⁶ and other requirements. After discussion with the UN Liaison Office, in a new application dated September, SDIA revised its answers, requested Category II status instead of the more general Category I, and added Subud trustees from different parts of the world as those listed were mainly from the UK.

An interesting point is that SDIA listed 8 500 members by country which in fact corresponds to total SBIF membership. The Constitution attached to the application could well have been SBIF’s, registered in Geneva in 1968, since SDIA’s was not yet registered. Archives are unavailable⁷.

² Varindra was a Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF from 1980 to 1988.

³ Wilbert Verhayen to Katherine Carré verbally.

⁴ www.whatissubud.net

“Seventh World Congress, August 8-15 1983, Anugraha, Englefield Green, Surrey UK
This Congress was held in the grounds of Anurgraha, a conference centre created by Subud in a renovated Victorian mansion. It had previously been decided that the constitution of the already legally established SBIF seemed suitable for the international organisation of Subud. This was further debated at Congress and between this Congress and the next one, the SBIF constitution was used in this way. Subsequently it became clear a different constitution was needed. A separate organisation to which Bapak gave the name Susila Dharma Association was set up to take over Subud’s humanitarian activities.....”

⁵ It has been confirmed by Edmund Kerner via Harris Smart and Amalia Rasheed that the original idea was for Subud as a whole to be at the UN.

⁶ Which constitution was it? The WHITE PAPER reads on p6, « There is still an open question that could not yet be answered: SDI was founded on 13 August 1983, but not incorporated/registered until 1994. The new statutes following SDI’s incorporation in 1994 were never deposited with the UN. Therefore: What statutes were registered with the Secretary General in 1988/89?”

SDIA was granted UN ECOSOC Category II (now called special) consultative status in May 1989 after intensive lobbying to satisfy the 19 government delegates on the UN NGO Committee.⁸

UNICEF consultative status was granted about the same time, through an easier procedure because this organization is not politically oriented, in addition to which Varindra's position no doubt played a role.

Several years later SDIA became associated with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI).

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We are grateful to Simone van Beek who let us have what was apparently the only copy of SDIA's application for UN ECOSOC consultative status.

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29.3.2009

⁷ The archives are said to be in a cellar in Manchester, UK. Wilbert Verhayen to Katherine Carré verbally.

⁸ See article « SDI joins the United Nations family », *Susila Dharma International News*, July 1989