**Naam/Name:**   
IFOR (International Fellowship of Reconciliation)

**RSIN/Fiscaal nummer ANBI:**   
8103.27.144

Het beloningsbeleid/The remuneration policy:

De bestuursleden van IFOR ontvangen geen vergoeding voor hun werk. Wel worden hun onkosten vergoed.

The members of the Board of IFOR receive no income or fee for their work, only their costs will be reimbursed.

**Het Beleidsplan/The Policy Plan:**

*Nederlands*

Hoofdlijnen uit het beleidsplan:

IFOR wil het netwerk van de aangesloten organisaties versterken en waar mogelijk uitbreiden. Zij wilde aangesloten organisaties steunen in hun werk op het gebied van vrede, ontwapening en mensenrechten. Ook zal IFOR aangesloten organisaties met elkaar in contact te brengen om gezamenlijk op te treden. Vooral verbindingen tussen het “Noorden” en het “Zuiden” worden aangemoedigd.

IFOR gaat door met het lobbywerk bij de organen van de Verenigde Naties in Genève, Wenen, New York en Parijs. IFOR zal aangesloten organisaties uitnodigen om deel te nemen aan dit lobbywerk. Ook zal zij verslag doen van het werk bij de VN en de aangesloten organisaties oproepen om acties in eigen land te organiseren ter ondersteuning van dit werk bij VN.

Om dit werk mogelijk te maken en verder uit te bouwen wordt er ondersteuning gegeven vanuit het hoofdkantoor in Utrecht. Verder zullen er fondsen geworven worden om dit werk te financieren.

*English*  
Main features of the policy plan:

IFOR wants to strengthen the network of the affiliated organizations and expand them where possible, support the member organizations in their work in the areas of peace, disarmament and human rights. IFOR also brings affiliated organizations into contact with each other

to act jointly. Especially in the creation of connections between the "North" and the "South".

IFOR continues to lobby with the organs of the United Nations in Geneva, Vienna, New York and Paris. IFOR invites member organizations to participate in this lobbying work while also reporting on said work at the UN and lastly calls on member organizations to take action to organize their own country, to support this important work at the UN.

In order to make this work possible and to further develop it, support is provided from its head office in Utrecht. Funds are continuously being raised to finance this work.

**Introduction:**

The International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) is an international, spiritual based movement of women and men committed to Active Nonviolence as a way of life and as a mean of political, social, cultural and economic transformation. Founded in 1919, IFOR has branches, groups and affiliates in more than forty countries worldwide and maintains its international secretariat in the Netherlands.

**Aims and purposes of the organization:**

IFOR works for a more peaceful, humane and just society in the world by promoting a culture of nonviolence, dialogue and reconciliation. Its activities are conducted in cooperation and support with its members, the United Nations representatives and international staff.

**Significant changes in the organization:**

SERPAJ has formally become a branch of IFOR in 2014 thus facilitating a closer involvement in Latin America. In 2018 new branches joined IFOR which is now present therefore in Bangladesh (with an additional member organization) and Togo.

Another significant change is the increasing of the number of UN reps. Since 2017 Geneva team has grown to 4 people engaged and New York did alike in 2018.

**Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations:**

IFOR supports the United Nations by participating regularly in conferences, meetings and side-events of the United Nations through its representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna. The grassroots experiences of the member organizations enable the representatives to share valuable information with the UN. IFOR’s representatives are assisted and coordinated by the International Secretariat, which also ensures communication with and reporting to IFOR’s board and members.

Contributions per Country:

**New York**

The New York UN representatives attend UN and NGO meetings in regard to issues of our concerns, including: peace, disarmament, non-violence, international law, etc. The representatives provide their inputs at such meetings and report back to other IFOR branches and the international secretariat.

Several activities include:

1) Attended NPT review and other disarmament meetings, including the UN conference on the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (7/2017, John Kim); worked on NGO statements that were delivered to such meetings.

2) Attended Commission on the Status of Women meetings (Patti Ackerman).

3) Sent letters to UN Secretary General and members of the Security Council concerning UN's role in promoting permanent peace and denuclearization in Korea.

**Geneva**

1) Conscientious Objection to Military Service:

This is the only part of the work which is funded, hence it has had to take priority. A grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust (JRCT), a Quaker Foundation in the United Kingdom, for the period April 2013 – March 2016, paid through MIR Suisse, was followed by a further three-year grant paid through the International Secretariat. (Three years is the maximum duration of grant which JRCT offers). We are currently in the course of applying for a further three years. The initial focus of the work was on providing briefings to the UN Human Rights Committee on “military service, conscientious objection, and related issues in those States which are making to it “Periodic Reports” under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Since the IFOR Council in Konstanz in 2014 there have been 13 sessions of the Human Rights Committee. To these, IFOR has made submissions on States. In not all States is conscientious objection to military service a major human rights issue, but in the great majority of those where it is we have succeeded in obtaining from the Committee recommendations on the issue in their “concluding observations”.

* in October 2014
* in March 2015
* in July 2015
* in October 2015
* in March 2016
* in July 2016
* in October 2016
* in March 2017
* in July 2017
* in October 2017
* in March 2018
* in July 2018

We have also achieved questions in the “Lists of Issues” for States whose reports are yet to come before the Committee; such questions – and the answers given by the State - are usually reflected in the “Concluding observations”.

These include:

In parallel with the Human Rights Committee, IFOR has made contributions to the Universal Periodic Review process of the Human Rights Council.

Both aspects have also involved bringing activists to Geneva.

Colombia: In October 2016 we brought Ana-Maria Rodriguez of the Comision Colombiana de Juristas and Nicolas of ACOOC (the Asociation Collectiva de Objetores y Objetoras de Conciencia, based in Bogota) to the consideration by the Human Rights Committee of Colombia’s Periodic Report

In April 2018 we brought Maricely Parada of ACOOC to the “presession” before the UPR review of Colombia – fortunately we were also able to combine this with an intervention in the Human Rights Council on the report from the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Office in Colombia (those of us who are based in Geneva can always sign up for two minutes’ speaking time, but obviously people from distant places like Colombia need already to be here for another purpose), with meetings with various European branches, and finally being a guest at the annual EUFOR meeting. Republic of Korea

In September 2017 we co-ordinated with Tom of Amnesty Korea and Stanley Baek, a Jehovah’s Witness lawyer who had represented a number of conscientious objectors and had also served a sentence of imprisonment for his personal objection.

Work on conscientious objection included a provision for Derek Brett, the person with principal responsibility for the project, to be paid half-time at the minimum wage in Geneva. He thus now works on a contract with IFOR. The grant also included a provision for a succession of shorter-term appointments of a training nature – from Summer 2017 to Summer 2018, Martina Lanza was contracted to IFOR, and paid from the JRCT grant, subsequently, until the end of this year, Zaira Zafarana has worked on the same basis. (In both cases they in practice worked from home in Northern Italy, commuting through to Geneva for weeks of major relevant meetings.)

The JRCT grant has also enabled IFOR to share with MIR Switzerland the cost of an office at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva (the headquarters of the World Council of Churches). This is the first time IFOR has maintained an office at any of the UN centres.

It must be stressed that this is the only dedicated funding IFOR receives for its UN work. As it stands, any expansion must be funded out of the general budget.

Cyprus, Eritrea, Greece, Israel, Russia, Tajikistan.

2) Human Rights Council, CO resolution, Side events, Written and Oral Statements, Miscellaneous visitors, Swefor partners introduction 2015

3) Universal Periodic Review Submissions

4) Special Procedures

5) Treaty Bodies

6) Human Right to Peace

7) Miscellaneous – UNHCR, IOM, IPCC

8) EBCO

9) DB misc travels: WRI Eastern Mediterranean Meeting, Cyprus 2015? Moscow conference December 2015.

**GENERAL ACTION OF IFOR REPRESENTATION TO UNESCO AND SUMMARY OF LAST ACTIVITIES (2015-2018)**

*General action:*

-Speeches at the UNESCO General Conference Sessions (Plenary and Commissions);

-partecipation and speeches at the Committee of UNESCO Executive Board Sessions on NGOs;

-participation in the biennial International conference of NGOs at UNESCO;

-member of steering committes and working groups for the organisation of international forum promoted by NGOs and the UNESCO-NGOs Liaison Committe, and panelist;

-drawning up of reports and participation in questionnaires of consultation for UNESCO policy development;

- continuing participation to the working groups of NGOs community at UNESCO and networking with other NGOs to improve civil society efficacy at UNESCO in policy-making, advocacy, implementation of action plans, mechanisms of cooperation between NGOs and Member States;

- application for the UNESCO Participation Programme (received 2 grants in the past years), and nominations for UNESCO Prizes.

*Main issues:*

Lobbying for reconciliation and social transformation through nonviolence and interfaith- intercultural dialogue;

-promotion of cultural diversity, participatory approach and inclusion of minorities and indigenous groups cultures in policy planning to design alternative models of development, expertise in defence and promotion of human rights, gender equality;

-promotion of nonviolence and peace education and of institutionalization of peace education (International Coalition work);

-promotion of policy oriented research and knowledge-sharing on theory and practice of nonviolent conflict resolution and the use of arts in peacebuilding;

-impact of media in education to violence and to nonviolence, and proposals for lines of action.

Last conferences and forums:

*2015*

38th Session of the General conference, UNESCO Headquarter , Paris 3-18 November 2015

Speech of the main representative in the Social and Human Sciences Commission and Culture Commission

(on policy oriented researches and knowledge-sharing on theory and practice of nonviolent conflict resolution; support to youth and civil society organisation in MENA region with training on nonviolence, democracy and peacebuiding; rapprochement of cultures through interreligious –intercultural dialogue ).

*2016*

-Sixth UNESCO-NGOs International Forum “From promoting to building Peace with NGOs”, Querétaro (Mexico), 3-4 November 2016.

More than 800 participants from UNESCO’s NGO official partners (representatives from Latin America, Europe, Asia, Africa and North America), academia, government authorities and youth from local high schools and universities. Preparation and participation of the main representative, speaker in the panel “Arts: a tool for dialogue”, on the role of art in conflict and post-conflict situations.

-International Conference of NGOs, UNESCO Headquarter , Paris, 12-14 December 2016

The contribution of IFOR permitted to have in the final documents of the conference (conclusions and the NGOs contribution for the new UNESCO strategy) an official committment for the “promotion of culture of peace” and for “education for peace and nonviolence” (http://www.ngo-unesco.net/conf2016/Conclusions%20de%20la%20CIONG%202016%20-%20EN%20Final.pdf; http://www.ngo-unesco.net/conf2016/CIONG2016-%20contribution39C5%20EN.pdf).

*2017*

39th Session of the General conference, UNESCO Headquarter , Paris November 2017

Speech of the IFOR main representative in Plenary (General Policy Debate) and in the Social and Human Science Commissions. (Main points: institutionalisation of peace and human rights education; knowledge-sharing on theory and practice of nonviolent conflct resolution, including art and peace research, cultural aspects of contemporary violence; widening international trend to the criminalisation of humanitarian action; creation of humanitarian corridors in the refugee and migrants crisis).

*2018*

-Ninth International Forum of NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO “Another Perspective on Migration” Tunis , 26-27 September 2018, (in partnership by NGOs-UNESCO Liaison Committee and the Arab Institute for Human Rights in the framework of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.

Preparation and participation of the main representative and IFOR workshop by Patrick Abisemba and Maria Biedrawa on Teaching nonviolence in a refugee camp.

International Seminar on Human Rights, Tunis, 29 September 2018;

Celebration of the International Day of Peace, Tunis, 28 September 2018, contest for schools and children, “Imagine a Drone or a Robot for Peace”.

-International Conference of NGOs “Promoting and enhancing the committment and contribution of UNESCO’s NGO partenrs”, UNESCO Headquarter, Paris, 17-19 December 2018

The contribution of IFOR permitted also to have in the final document of the conference a shared committment on education for nonviolence and peace.

Current activities

Participation to the working groups on reinforcement of NGOs cooperation with UNESCO, Agenda 2030, and preparation of a new forum on “Global citizenship, nonviolence and peace education” and of a Festival for peace in 2020.