



CCIG

INTERNATIONAL
CATHOLIC
CENTER
OF GENEVA

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2017

www.ccig-iccg.org

SUMMARY

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ABBREVIATIONS

CINGO	Catholic-inspired Non-governmental Organization
HRC	Human Rights Council
ILO	International Labour Organisation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
UPR	Universal Periodic Review



« At the very heart
of International
Institutions »

EDITORIAL

DEAR FRIENDS OF THE CCIG,

One of the highlights of the work of the CCIG in 2017 was the collaboration with the Human Rights Defenders in Togo. This work aimed to monitor and strengthen the implementation of a number of recommendations made by the Human Rights Council through the Universal Periodic Review of Togo related to the issue of torture and cruel treatment. This mattered to me a lot, as I had the chance to visit Togo a few years back. Togo is not often covered by international media, the fragile situation of human rights in the country is not known to many. The Togolese human rights activists explained to me how important international coverage, networks and solidarity is for them in this context and how it empowers them in their work. A second important point was that we were able to follow up on the recommendations of the UPR. It is one of the tasks of civil society to denounce if rights are abused or not respected. But we have also to be a partner supporting the implementation, for example by informing and training stakeholders. In the case of Togo, as the government has accepted most of the

recommendations, it is also a way to use the provided space to move things in a good direction and I'm really happy that we could deliver support for this in collaboration with our partners.

To ensure the sustainability of such project, it is important that we can go on playing our role as a platform and to provide the space for exchange, support and training. An important step to ensure the continued organizational development was the development and adoption of the Strategic Plan 2018-22. It was very motivational to see how members of the CCIG got involved in discussing the priority areas of our work and in drafting the new strategy, and this new strategy is a good ground for the continued evolvement of our center.

I would like to thank all members, partners, stakeholders, board members and the secretariat for their efforts in 2017 and we are looking forward to continue the work in 2018!

Sincerely,

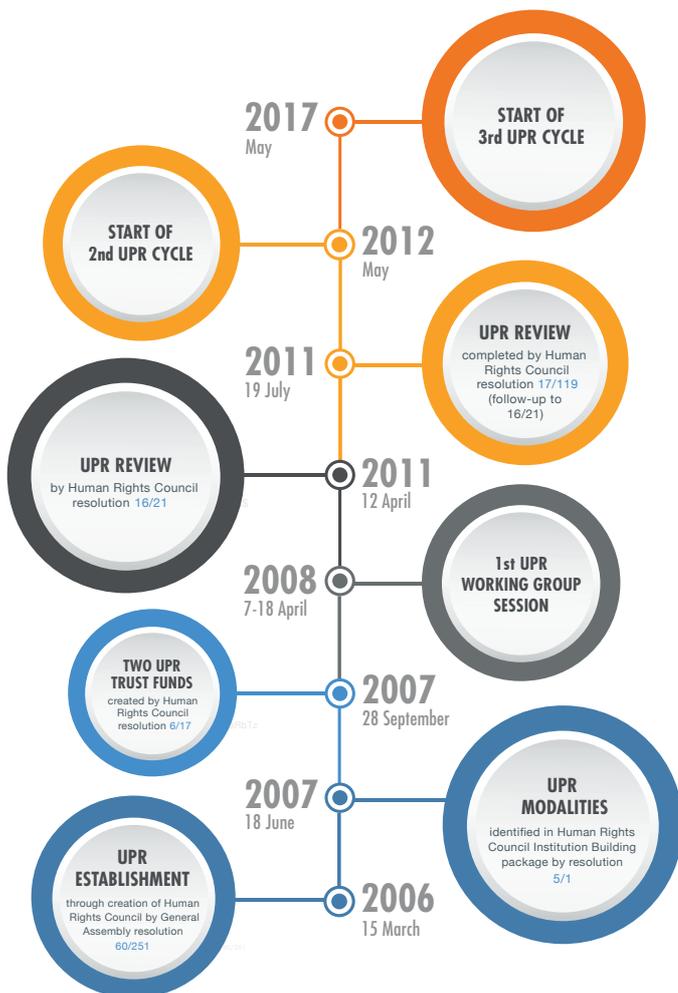
Felix Wertli, President of CCIG Board



SERVICE TO NGOs

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR) PLATFORM

Since its establishment in 2011, the CCIG's UPR platform has expanded its initiatives and collaboration among its partners. In May 2017, the 3rd UPR cycle offered a new window of opportunity to strengthen the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), but it also brought new challenges, in particular regarding the implementation of the recommendations issued by Member States in the framework of the UPR. As a result, the need for high quality, punctual and coordinated contributions by Civil Society actors has become even more urgent in order to monitor the implementation of UPR recommendations and to call upon States for more effective action to prevent and address human rights violations.



http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/UPR_timeline.pdf



During 2017, three plenary meetings of the Platform took place to facilitate joint work of NGOs between the 27th and the 29th sessions of the UPR.¹ Thirteen **joint written reports** were submitted to the High Commissioner for Human Rights by members of the CCIG Platform and five **oral statements** were delivered under item 6 of the Human Rights Council.² Compared to the number of sessions and countries addressed by the UPR Platform in 2015 (6 joint written reports and 6 oral statements) and 2016 (14 joint written reports and 4 oral statements), there continues to be a significant and steady contribution resulting from the work of the Platform. With the support of CCIG, NGOs also developed common strategies to collect information from their own members in the field, to draft joint reports, and to carry out joint lobbying activities with States Representatives in order to prioritize members' concerns during the review.

In addition to the oral statements on specific countries, a joint oral statement concerning the functioning of the UPR was submitted by CCIG under item 6 (General Debate) of the 35th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC). Co-signed by 16 NGOs, this oral statement recognized the full implementation of UPR recommendations as a major challenge and the primary goal of the 3rd UPR cycle. In line with the OHCHR's strategy, the **NGO coalition led by CCIG** called upon Member States to establish, by the time of the mid-term review of the current cycle, a permanent governmental mechanism to liaise with relevant ministries and consult with Civil Society, NHRI's and all relevant stakeholders. The aim of the mechanism would be to follow up the implementation of UPR and other UN bodies' recommendations at the national level and specifically to translate those recommendations into concrete positive interventions on the ground.³



A database on the CCIG website, providing links to all Joint UPR Submissions by members, as well as Oral Statements has been regularly updated throughout 2017.⁴

Furthermore, in line with the work initiated in 2016 with the aim to help the realization of its joint advocacy priorities, the CCIG UPR Platform continued to find new forms of collaboration with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) as well as other NGO partners, in order to encourage the work of Civil Society in holding States accountable for the implementation UPR recommendations. In 2016, among other things, CCIG coordinated the inputs provided by NGO members of the Platform and reported those comments and concerns to a meeting organized by the UPR Branch of the OHCHR in order to gather views and comments on the revised OHCHR guidelines for Civil Society regarding UPR written contributions.

Similarly, in 2017, the CCIG acted as a catalyst for facilitating the sharing of information and exchanges among its members with regard to several initiatives carried out by UPR-info in order to achieve a greater focus on the assessment of the implementation of recommendations for the 3rd UPR cycle. CCIG coordinated the submission of written inputs endorsed by 9 NGOs and presented this joint advocacy position in multiple meetings and exchanges with other NGO partners, thereby actively contributing and influencing the global process. Moreover, CCIG was mandated by UPR

Platform members to participate in two **meetings with the UPR Branch of the OHCHR** held in May and November 2017, thereby ensuring that the concerns and suggestions of the Platform's NGO members were taken into account.

As a result, the OHCHR took the initiative to make public 14 letters, addressed to each Member State reviewed during the 27th Session of the UPR Working Group in May 2017. Each letter called on the State under Review to “develop a national human rights action plan in order to achieve concrete results” regarding UPR recommendations and encouraged the strengthening of “the national mechanism for comprehensive follow up and reporting in relation to international and regional human rights mechanisms and treaty obligations”. This particular reference is very much in line with that of the CCIG UPR Platform to advocate for the establishment of Nations Mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (NMRF). It is important to note that other letters similar to those prepared for the 27th UPR session will be sent to all States to be reviewed in the upcoming UPR sessions, thereby providing a useful advocacy tool for NGOs when approaching authorities at the national level, in particular Ministries in charge of implementing UPR recommendations.

«I read the statement: it is very encouraging that [the CCIG UPR Platform] has also incorporated this recommendation in the UPR submissions.»

OHCHR staff member

1. Due to the usual break between the 2nd and 3rd UPR cycle, only two UPR sessions (instead of three) took place in 2017. Please see official UPR calendar at: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/UPR_3rd_cycle.pdf
2. http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?page_id=457
3. The full text of the oral statement is available at: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/CCIG-joint-statement-35HRC-Item-6-GD.pdf>
4. http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?page_id=457

TRAINING

Throughout 2017, the Secretariat of the CCIG has provided continuous support to the initiatives of NGOs in the training of their members in regard to the United Nations' mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights, such as the treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review. The beneficiaries included human rights defenders from Africa, Asia and Oceania.

In addition to formal training sessions and bilateral meetings, targeted and specific counselling was provided at the request of CCIG members with regard to the organization of training activities for their own members as well as in the drafting of UPR submissions.



PROJECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN TOGO

Thanks to the support of the City of Geneva and the Republic and Canton of Geneva, the CCIG carried out a project aimed at the **capacity building of Human Rights Defenders in Togo working with victims of torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary detention, arbitrary execution and enforced disappearance.**

In October 2016, Togo was reviewed during the 27th session of the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review. During this review, civil society in Togo was very active in expressing their concerns to the Permanent Missions based in Geneva and Embassies based in Togo. The report of the UPR working group was adopted by the Human Rights Council during its 34th session in March 2017. Nearly twenty of the recommendations made in the UPR related to the issue of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, most of which were accepted by Togo.

It was within this context that the CCIG, the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (FIACAT) and Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture in Togo (ACAT

Togo) decided to set up a project to monitor the implementation of these recommendations by providing Togolese civil society with suitable monitoring tools and to increase familiarization with the various mechanisms for the promotion of human rights.

« [CCIG project] has enabled us to set in place joint monitoring of UPR recommendations and to reinforce the work between organizations. »

*Bruno Haden,
Secretary General, ACAT Togo
and Participant in CCIG Project on Togo*

Demonstrating CCIG's two pillars of actions "Training" and "Awareness-raising", this project included a mission in the field, in Lomé in April 2017 and a subsequent side event in Geneva in September during the 36th session of the UN Human Rights Council.

A two-part training was delivered to representatives of Togolese civil society in Lomé. The first part consisted of a three-day training course, given to twenty-five participants, representing 13 non-governmental organizations in Togo, regarding the UN instruments for the protection of human rights, in particular the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the Convention against Torture (CAT). The second part concerned advocacy activities vis-à-vis local and international institutions in regard to the human rights situation in Togo.

The three days of training consisted of several modules introducing the United Nations system, including the Human Rights Council, the Universal Periodic Review and the Treaty Body system, in particular the Convention against Torture. A parallel was also drawn with mechanisms and instruments of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR). Finally, various tools for advocacy were presented to the workshop participants. Following the presentation of these modules, the participants drew up an action plan for civil society to monitor the recommendations addressed to Togo on the occasion of its second UPR.

A representative of the State Secretariat for Human Rights (SEDH) was present during the three days of training and the drawing up of this action plan. Following these three training days, two press conferences were organized by ACAT, with the participation of Ms Nakpa Polo, State Secretary for Human Rights, to make the general public aware of the need to respect the commitments made by Togo at international level.



«I believe our partners, CCIG and FIACAT, have provided us with a higher degree of knowledge to exercise our commitment to defending human rights.»

*Franck Gafan,
Director of Programmes, YMCA Togo
and Participant in CCIG Project on Togo*

The second part of the training, focusing on advocacy, enabled meetings to be organized between the participants, the organizers and representatives of various national and international institutions to share various concerns related to the fight against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in Togo. The mission ended with a visit to the prison in Lomé by a delegation of the FIACAT and ACAT Togo.

The good administration of justice was identified as a priority by local human rights defenders and highlighted during the training. It was noted that this was related to other issues of human rights violations such as arbitrary detention and prison overcrowding. The administration of justice in Togo lacks human, material and financial resources, making the processing of cases very slow. As a consequence, a large number of people find themselves in detention, sometimes for several years, before they come to court, in violation of the provisions of the law. Pre-trial detention and arbitrary detention are also two of the most important causes of prison overcrowding. Another challenge for the government of Togo in this area is the lack of trust in the legal system among the population, as shown by the increase in private justice, or mob justice.

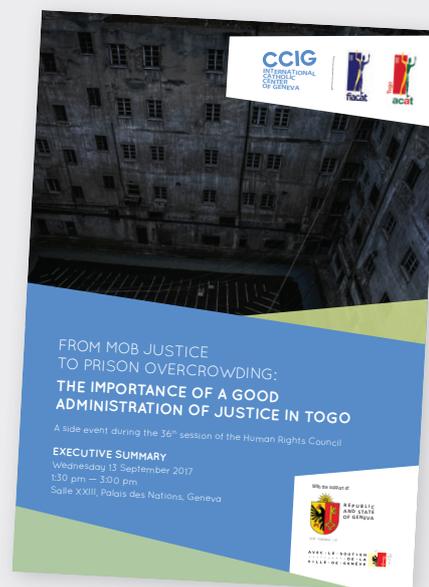
Three of the 25 human rights defenders who attended the training were given the opportunity to contribute to the organization of a side event in Geneva in order to share their experience and raise awareness about the challenges faced by the justice system in Togo.



The side event “From mob justice to prison overcrowding: the importance of a good administration of justice in Togo”, was organized by the International Catholic Centre of Geneva (CCIG) together with the International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (FIACAT) and Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture in Togo (ACAT Togo) on the 13th of September 2017, during the 36th session of the Human Rights Council. This event was co-sponsored by the Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR Centre) and by the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT).

The presentations by the speakers, Mr Franck Gafan (Director of Programmes, YMCA Togo), Ms Marie Salphati (Representative to the United Nations, FIACAT), and Mr Alessio Bruni (Member of the UN Committee against Torture) focused on the challenges faced by the system of justice in Togo as well as on the efforts already made by both the government and by civil society to improve access to justice in Togo.⁵ Very relevant questions raised by the public made the interactive dialogue that followed speakers' presentations interesting and dynamic. Ms Maria D'Onofrio (Secretary general, CCIG) moderated the event. The participation of a representative of the Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations in Geneva made it possible to create space for dialogue between the government and the representatives of civil society to improve justice and to implement the recommendations of the UPR. The Executive Summary of the event was published and disseminated among several Permanent Missions who addressed UPR recommendations to Togo on the topic, as well as to interested UN experts and other stakeholders concerned. The Executive Summary was also mailed to partners in Togo and made available in English and French on CCIG's website.⁶ A video of the event, including testimonies from the three Togolese Civil Society representatives also was produced.⁷ The video

was then shared among the project's participants in order to raise awareness and to serve as a learning tool for other training and advocacy activities. Moreover, following the side event, numerous meetings were arranged for the Togolese partners with Permanent Missions, UN officials and NGOs. Thanks to the expertise and the commitment of the three representatives from Togo, the meetings proved to be very fruitful and informative allowing Geneva based international professionals to learn about the reality of the human rights situation in Togo.



Finally, preparations for the realization of a last activity linked to the project were undertaken in the second semester of 2017. This additional activity - to be finalized in the first trimester 2018- consists in the translation of relevant UPR recommendations in the 3 national languages of Togo,

together with graphic representation through cartoons. The content of the publication will be also made available through a multimedia tool to be used by local civil society to raise awareness on the commitments made by Togo to fight against torture and ill-treatment.⁸

5. For more information, see: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?p=2023>

6. English: http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/CCIG-Report-Side-Event-Togo_EN.pdf

French: http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/CCIG-Report-Side-Event-Togo_FR.pdf

7. http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CCIG_GOOD_ADMIN_FRANCAIS.mov

http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CCIG_GOOD_ADMIN_FINAL_ENGLISH.mov

8. The publications in the 3 languages is available at:

<http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Livret-FR-Kabye-final.pdf>

<http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Livret-FR-lfe-final.pdf>

<http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Livret-FR-EWE-final.pdf>

The multimedia support in French, Ewe, kabye and Ifé is available at:

http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/EPU_TOGO_KABYE.mov

http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/EPU_TOGO_FRANCAIS.mov

http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/EPU_TOGO_EWE.mov

http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/EPU_TOGO_IFE.mov

EXCHANGES AND AWARENESS-RAISING

LABOUR INSPECTION AS AN INSTRUMENT TO PROTECT WORKERS IN INFORMAL ECONOMY: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES - CCIG CONSULTATION



In 2017, CCIG continued its work to promote fair and dignified work in the global labour market. Notably, an event was held in June in conjunction with the 106th session of the International Labour Conference, entitled “Labour Inspection as an Instrument to Protect Workers in Informal Economy: Challenges, Opportunities and Responsibilities”. The event was jointly organized by the International Catholic Centre of Geneva (CCIG), Kolping International/the German Commission for Justice and Peace (KI, GCJP), the International Coordination of Young Christians Workers (ICYCW), International Young Christian Workers (IYCW), the World Movement of Christian Workers (WMCW), Caritas Internationalis (CI), and the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), with the collaboration of the Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA). Furthermore, the event was made possible with the support of the World Council of Churches (WCC), who hosted the event in their Geneva headquarters.

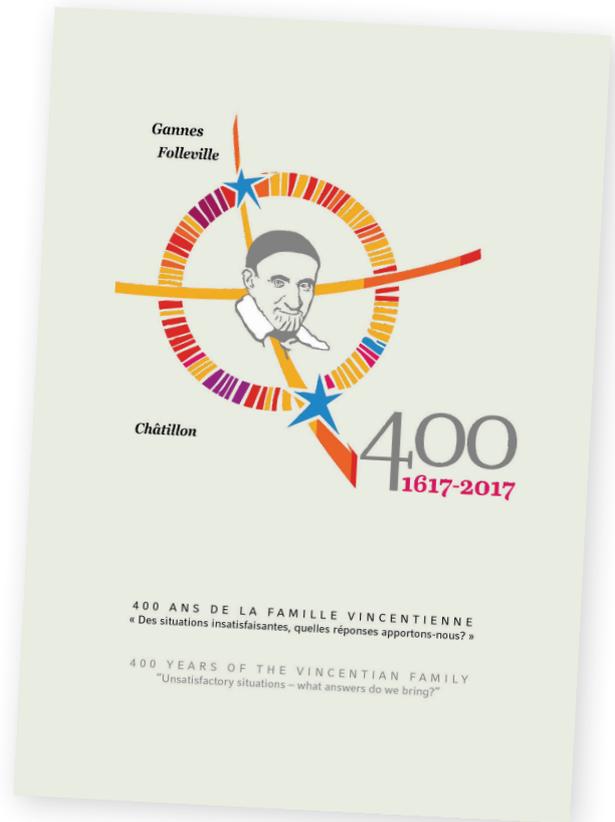
Welcoming distinguished panelists from NGOs working in the field and in Geneva as well as an ILO expert on the topic, the event provided the opportunity for participants to share the challenges and best practices of labour inspection, highlighting its potential as a



mechanism to protect the world’s most vulnerable workers: - those working in the informal economy. When effectively administered at the national and regional levels, labour inspection can help provide protections and improve the often precarious and even hazardous working conditions of workers in the informal economy. Labour administrations and their inspectors serve the dual role of counseling employers and workers about international labour standards on wages, working time, and acceptable working ages amongst others, while also uncovering faults in the system to be reported to national authorities. For further details, please consult the article⁹ and the executive summary¹⁰ on the event. ▶

VINCENTIAN FAMILY EXHIBITION AT THE PALAIS DES NATIONS

The CCIG was pleased to support the exhibition organized by the Vincentian Family (Famvin), that took place at “La Passerelle” in the Palais des Nations on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the organization. The exhibition presented some of the many projects led by two of CCIG members, namely the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, who take action in favor of the most vulnerable people in many areas over five continents. The exhibition illustrated the diverse humanitarian projects carried out around the world especially in conflict and natural disaster areas as well as extremely poor regions, such as medical and first aid operations, farming support, educational projects, housing and rehabilitation projects.¹¹



9. Article on event: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?p=1994>

10. The Executive Summary is available on the CCIG website at: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/CCIG-Executive-summary-Labour-inspection-event.pdf>

11. For further details please refer to: <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/?p=2035>; <https://www.ssvpglobal.org/> ; <http://filles-de-la-charite.org/>

ADMINISTRATION

STRUCTURE OF CCIG ACTIVITIES

In 2017 the Board has held seven meetings at the CCIG headquarters in order to ensure coherence and adequate realization of all activities as well as the development of fundraising efforts. During the past year, Yvette Angulo Rincón and Pascal Gondrand resigned from the Board. We thank them for their valuable contribution to CCIG work in the past two years.

Several preparations and follow up efforts were undertaken for the finalization of the new Strategy and Action Plan for 2018 – 2022. This one-year process, initiated at the 2016 General Assembly, was concluded with the adoption of the new Strategy and Action Plan at the General Assembly in May 2017.

CCIG Members' participation in this process is of pivotal importance to the Board of the organization. As a result, several efforts were employed by the CCIG Board and Secretariat in the first semester 2017 to collect inputs and feedback from Members and finalize the new Strategy and Action Plan.

Moreover, a working group within the Members of the Board was created to prepare the "Friends of CCIG" strategy to be presented at the 2018 GA.



KEY POINTS RELATED TO FUNDRAISING:

- The Project for Human Rights Defenders in Togo was founded by the City of Geneva and the Republic and Canton of Geneva.
- In 2017, CCIG has obtained a contribution to the UPR Platform from Trócaire.
- Fundraising in German-speaking Switzerland has resulted in donations from the Interior Mission of Zug.
- Other activities such as the consultation on labour inspection as an instrument to protect workers in informal economy were financed by the respective partners.



MEMBERS OF CCIG BOARD (UPDATED ON DECEMBER 31, 2017)

- Felix WERTLI — President
- Budi Tjahjono — Vice-President
- Brian Bond — Treasurer
- Jean-Claude Huot — Member
- Larry Kohler — Member
- Guillermo Kerber — Member
- Diana Duarte Rizzolio — Member
- Alvaro Sepúlveda — Member

Finally, as with every year, several meetings were held between the Secretariat and members wishing to receive assistance in the development of their activities. The work of the Secretariat was supported by Silvia Palomba as a Consultant for Projects Management and Fund-raising and by Isabel Fredricks as an intern for the first semester 2017.

FINANCIAL STRATEGY

At the conclusion of its Strategy and Action Plan 2017 – 2022, the year 2017 represented an important moment of transition for the CCIG. In addition to the above-mentioned internal process of consultation with members, once the new Strategy and Action Plan was finalized, the CCIG devoted special attention to shape and secure the future of the organization vis-à-vis its traditional donors as well as the more recent donors.

In addition to the continued and appreciated support of Action de Carême (Swiss Catholic Lenten Fund), CCIG has, in 2017, consolidated existing partnerships and took steps to identify new sources of funding. Despite the absence of the usual partnership with the "UNESCO Extea", exchanges occurred for a reinforced collaboration in 2018.

Moreover, the approval by the City of Geneva for the new project for human rights defenders in Togo, as well as the confirmation of the support of the Republic and Canton of Geneva for this project, have been important outcomes of CCIG fundraising efforts.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2017

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