

QUADRENNIAL REPORT WORLD IGBO CONGRESS (WIC)

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**WORLD IGBO CONGRESS - WIC
SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS GRANTED 2012**

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Part I. Introduction

The World Igbo Congress, Inc. (WIC) is an international nonprofit corporation registered in the State of Texas in 1994. It is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of Igbo people in the Diaspora and in their homeland in Nigeria by meeting the needs of these people through programs that in consonance with ECOSOC programs and the 2000 – 2015 Millennium Development Goals. The purposes for which the corporation was organized are charitable, educational, scientific, health, environment, and economic development and specifically as follows:

1. To promote the advancement and welfare of Ndi-Igbo though through the stimulation of better healthcare delivery in Igbo land especially in respect of improved maternal care, reduction of infant mortality and control of vector-borne and transmissible diseases.
2. To protect women and girls from abuse within the context of ECOSOC programs and the traditional norms of Igbo land
3. To promote harmony and peaceful co-existence among themselves and with other ethnic groups through promoting equality across gender and community divides.

On these, World Igbo Congress was granted Special Consultative Status of the Economic and Social Council in _____

With the Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, WIC advanced their mission to conform to the development Agenda and enacted action on the following priorities

- i. Empower Igbo people on skills and talents in ending poverty and achieving zero hunger
- ii. Modernize our herbs and roots from the soil of Igbo communities , professionalize local health practitioners for affordable, accessible and available health and wellbeing of Igbo people
- iii. Develop education curriculum on values and norms of Igbo people to achieve quality education and develop inherent talent and skills in Igbo people
- iv. Focus on wellbeing of Igbo women and girls and end all forms of social issues on them. Promote education of the girl child before marriage
- v. Renew aged stream water in Igbo communities and ensure clean water and adequate sanitation
- vi. Global Igbo known trades , improve on industry and infrastructure and economic growth
- vii. Empower traditional ruler ship and work with traditional rulers to build sustainable cities and communities of Igbo people
- viii. Unify small communities and ensure development opportunities
- ix. Ensure peace, justice and strong communities of Igbo people

- x. Build global partnership for the Igbo people sustainability

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

1. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

And/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

WIC was granted Special Consultative Status at the peak of the Post 2015 Development Agenda. WIC participated in Major Group Meetings, NGO Committees and working groups and the office of the Assistant Secretary General on Post 2015 Development Agenda. WIC held several awareness programs both in the diaspora and home to create awareness to Igbo people on the Sustainable Development Goals. Among these were

- i. Post 2015 Development Agenda Forums for Igbo Leaders
- ii. World Igbo Congress annual Convention
- iii. Grassroots education and Pre-CSW Conferences
- iv. Better Woman Better Family Initiative

World Igbo Congress Has since 2012 been participating actively at the major UN events such as Commission on Social Development Session; United Nations Harmony Week; Commission on Status of Women Session; Decade of People of Africa Descent; Commission on Human Rights Indigenous people Forum and NGO Committees and Working Groups

NEW YORK

Attended March 4th –March 15 2013 at the United Nations Headquarters New York, The 57th Conference of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) with the theme *Violence Against Women and Girls a Global Cankermorm*. WIC organized a parallel event with the theme “*Cultural Best Practices in Preventing and Eliminating Violence Against Women and Girls*” on the 10th Floor of 777 Church Center UN Plaza 44th Street New York March 8, 2013. WIC also submitted an accepted and published statement with the priority theme “*The Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls*”

- i. Attended 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58) held from 10 to 21 March 2014 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The priority theme was “*Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls*”. WIC submitted a statement titled *Better Woman Better Family* and organized a parallel event with the theme “*Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Igbo Women and Girls Voices of Igbo Girls on Use of Girls on Baby Making Factory*” on March 14, 2014 at the Salvation Army 221 East 52nd Street NY 10022

- ii. Attended the 59th session of CSW March 9-20, 2015 at the UN Headquarters in New York. WIC submitted a published statement and organized a parallel event on Evaluating Beijing Platform for Action on Igbo Women and Girls March 14, 2015 on the 2nd Floor of 777 United Nations Plaza, Church Center United Nations Headquarters, 10017.

ATLANTA GA

Organized a Post UNCSW57 International Forum as a Families and Strengthening Strategies forum June 21 - 23, 2013 at Garden Plaza Hotel, 6050 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Norcross, GA 30071, USA. It was a Better Woman Better Family Initiative

BERLIN, GERMANY

2014, June 20 – 22: Organized a global Igbo women’s summit as a post CSW58 event: a better woman better family initiative with the theme “Creating women and girls possible future from MDGs to post 2015 sustainable development agenda at Victory Center Koloniestr. 29 13359 Berlin, wedding Germany

BROOKLYN NEW YORK

Friday October 11, 2013 United Nations International Day of the Girl Child. WIC began its Boys and Girls Club Initiative with a workshop at Benjamin Banneker High School, Brooklyn New York with the theme “Innovating for Girls’ Education in Diversity”

BOSTON MA

June 19, 2015. WIC organized and hosted a two day Conference in the Igbo and Nigerian community in Boston, MA as a post-CSW59

2. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters (HQ)

GENEVA

- i. January 22, 2013, World Igbo Congress submitted a formal application to the World Health Organization (WHO) for partnership in its pursuit of strategies for disease control in southeastern Nigeria
- ii. April 22, 2013 submitted a formal request to the Human Rights Council Branch Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Office at Geneva CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland, for ACTION TO STOP THE WANTON KILLING OF THE IGBO in Nigeria.

- iii. November 15, 2013 WIC submitted a published statement to the 52nd Session of the UN Commission for Social Development (CSocd) with the priority theme: *Promoting empowerment of people in achieving poverty eradication, social integration and full employment and decent work for all.*
 - iv. In 2013/2014, pursuant to its objective of working for the welfare of the Igbo, WIC developed and submitted proposals to the following UN subsidiaries: United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF), United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) and UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women (UNTFEVAW).
4. Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals, which now form the basis of the global agenda for the 21st century

WIC contributed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the following two out of the six administrative zones of Nigeria: Southeast and South-South. Major actions undertaken were multi-faceted missions (medical, educational, technical, financial etc. They addressed the MDGs as follow:

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 2. Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. In conjunction with its affiliates, WIC performed the following actions: Fed or gave nutritional care to over 60,000 children in 60 local governments in the southeastern Nigeria. Provided nutrition training for 250 mothers (drawn from all seven states) in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, Feb 14, 2014. WIC organized a similar event in Umuahia, Abia State of Nigeria.

Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education

Target 3. Ensure that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. Through its "Boys & Girls Club initiative, WIC marched sponsors with 375 students in Anambra and Imo States in Southeastern Nigeria. Delivered 3,000 packages of pencils, pens and notebook to primary schools in southeastern Nigeria

Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women: *Target 3a—Eliminate gender disparity and secondary education preferably:* WIC established Boys and Girls Clubs in 29 High Schools in Anambra and Imo States by 2005, and at all levels by 2015: It's flagship effort in this regard was the Irene Menakaya School in Aguleri, Anambra State.

Goal 5. Improve maternal health

Target 6. Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio. Through its medical missions programs, WIC provided general medical care for over 3,000,000 people among whom were 830,000 child-bearing women. Also provided training for 86 local nurses and midwives for this purpose. WIC

is facilitating the establishment of a Women and Children Institute as part of the 6-Institute Regional Medical Center of Excellence (RMCE) at Ogbaku, Imo State, Nigeria.

Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases:

Target 6a—Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS: This is covered in the RMCE project in Goal 5 above.

Goal 8. Develop a global partnership for development: Target 8e. In cooperation with

pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in

developing countries: WIC developed partnerships with organizations throughout the US for pharmaceuticals and eyeglasses used in the medical and other missions.

ii) Activities in Support of Global Principles

In support of the UN declaration on the annual observance of the International Day of the Girl Child, WIC initiated a program: Future Women Want on African News network with ongoing skype/phone discussions on the topic Violence Against the Girl and Child Marriage: Voices from Grandmothers. WIC observes UN International Day of the Girl Child since October 24, 2012 WIC also observed Int'l Widow's Day with a Commemoration Service in Berlin, Germany June 22,2014. WIC has partnered with the Women Affairs Ministries of the governments of Anambra and Ebonyi states of southeastern Nigeria to champion the cause of justice for Chekwube Mbaka, the 18-year old high school student who died 5th October 2013 after she was raped by 8 heartless men in Obosi of Anambra State, Nigeria. WIC spent \$3,000.00 on the autopsy, funeral and pursuit of justice for her.

Taking further our initiatives along the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Development Agenda, WIC adopted three pillars for the Igbo People on

- i. Values and Norms; ii. Skills, Trade and Entrepreneur; iii. Socio-Cultural and Environmental Resources

Under the 5Ps of SDGs for the Igbo people, our major priorities are

- i. Igbo people active participation even from grassroots on the global agenda
- ii. Advocate for the rights of the Igbo people globally
- iii. Improve on Global Partnership to encourage sustainable economic , social and infrastructure developments
- iv. Build spirit of harmony among Igbo people in the Diaspora and home including Igbos of the Africa Descent

With the 2030 Development Agenda, World Igbo Congress is committed to the promotion of Rights of Igbo people, values and norms and work towards bringing together Igbo people across the world in building the collective interest rooted on Igbo values and norms.