

**Concept note on the
consultations of the Committee with NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC regarding
the evolving relationship between the NGOs and the United Nations**

Background

In paragraph 61 (a) of its resolution 1996/31 on the consultative relations between the United Nations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the Economic and Social Council stated that the Committee on NGOs would be responsible for regular monitoring of the evolving relationship between NGOs and the United Nations. It further decided that with a view to fulfilling this responsibility, the Committee shall hold, before each of its sessions, and at any other times as necessary, consultations with organizations in consultative status to discuss questions of interest to the Committee or to the organizations relating to the relationship between the NGOs and the United Nations, and that a report on such consultations shall be transmitted to the President of the Economic and Social Council for appropriate action.

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) convened consultations with NGOs in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2011 and 2018. The reports of the consultations were transmitted to the President of the Economic and Social Council.

It is proposed that the Committee convene consultations with NGOs in consultative status during its 2022 cycle, in line with the requirements of ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, based on the arrangements adopted by the Committee during the 2018 consultations.

Focus of the discussions

NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC will be invited to consider the following questions as formulated by the Committee, and to prepare contributions for the discussions around them:

- How can NGOs further contribute to the work of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies? What are the most efficient modalities for NGOs to contribute to the United Nations policymaking, be recognized and be influential in these processes?
- What in your organization's view should be done to provide better support to NGOs during the process of obtaining consultative status with ECOSOC?
- How can the participation of NGOs from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in UN's work be increased?
- Once the consultative status is granted to organizations, how best can NGOs access the opportunities given to them to take part in UN processes?

Timing and Format

The consultations will take the form of written submissions and an interactive hearing which will be held in New York on **Tuesday 13 December 2022 from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.**

Written Submissions

As part of the consultation process, this concept note will be disseminated to all NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC in the three working languages of ECOSOC, inviting them to submit their contributions and views on four questions formulated by the Committee on NGOs.

Non-governmental organizations will be given a period of eight (8) weeks to submit their written responses and to register to participate in the Interactive hearing. A compilation of all the written submissions received from NGOs will be circulated to the Committee members two weeks before the interactive hearing.

Interactive Hearing

The hearing will provide an opportunity for NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC to present and exchange views with members of the Committee on the four questions listed above. The hearing will be conducted under the auspices of the Committee and will be moderated by the Chair. Interpretation services will be provided in all six official languages of the UN.

NGOs in consultative status who can attend the hearing in New York will be invited to interact with the Committee in an open session on a first come first served basis, while respecting the principle of equitable geographical representation. In the spirit of transparency, a list of all NGOs that registered to participate in the hearing will be circulated to the Members of the Committee on NGOs, prior to the hearing.

To ensure broad and inclusive consultations and in order to facilitate the participation of NGOs from all regions of the world, video links will be established in different UN duty stations, where possible, while respecting the principle of equitable geographical representation, and NGOs will be invited to such duty stations. To enable the participation of NGOs that are unable to travel to New York or participate remotely due to time differences, NGOs will also be invited to submit video statements directly to the Secretariat. The hearing will also be webcast live on UN Web TV.

Also, a list of speakers (list of NGOs that have registered to address the Committee) will be compiled on a first-come, first-served basis, while respecting the principle of equitable geographical representation, and will be circulated in advance of the hearing.

Each organization will be given three minutes to make their intervention.

Outcome

A report on the consultations will be prepared by the Chair of the Committee and presented to the Committee for adoption. The adopted report will be transmitted to the President of the Economic and Social Council