

**Note by the Chair of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
on Consultations of the Committee with NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC
regarding the evolving relationship between the NGOs and the United Nations**

(as of 05/04/2018)

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 Council for appropriate action.

The adoption by the United Nations of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has given a new impetus for a mobilization of a wide range of actors in support of this global, wide range programme containing 17 quantifiable Goals. In this context, mechanisms to monitor the relations between the UN and Non-Governmental Organizations in consultative status, have become even more important.

Focus of the discussions

NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC are invited to consider the following questions 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 policy-making, 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?

Format

The consultations will take the form of an interactive hearing and a collection of written submissions from NGOs.

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 issues listed above. Each organization will be given three minutes to make their intervention. A list of participants will be circulated in advance of the hearing.

The hearing will be conducted under the auspices of the Committee and will be moderated by the Chair. NGOs in consultative status who can attend the hearing in New York will be invited to interact with the Committee in an open session. To facilitate the participation of NGOs from other regions, video links will be established in different UN duty stations (Nairobi and Geneva). The hearing will also be webcast live on UN Web TV.

To ensure broad and diverse participation in the consultation process, the Secretariat will disseminate this Concept Note to all NGOs in consultative status soliciting their responses on the four questions listed above. All the responses submitted by NGOs will be made available to the Committee at least one week before the hearing. A summary of the views and responses received from the NGOs will be collated by the Secretariat and presented to the Committee.

Timing

It is proposed that the hearing be held in New York on Friday 22 June 2018 from 10 am to 1 pm.

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.