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NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of
Arrangements for Consultation with Non-Governmental
Organizations on its second session

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* E/1995/100.

I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft decision

1. The Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

General review of arrangements for consultations with
non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To extend the mandate of the Working Group for a period of one year, with a meeting time of not less than two weeks, and requests the Working Group to present its final report to the Council at its substantive session of 1996;

(b) To increase, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, the present membership of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and to implement this decision after the completion of the current review;

(c) That, starting in 1996, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations shall meet annually and, as required, on an ad hoc basis, should this be necessary for the prompt discharge of its duties;

(d) To request the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to undertake a thorough review of its methods of work with a view to improving and streamlining its procedures;

(e) To prolong the consultative status, Roster, of those non-governmental organizations so accredited by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1993/329, subject to a final resolution of the issue by the Council at its substantive session of 1996, following the outcome of the review of arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations currently under way.

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

2. The attention of the Council is drawn to the following decision adopted by the Open-ended Working Group:

Proposals concerning arrangements for consultations with
non-governmental organizations

At the 5th meeting, on 31 May 1995, the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations

decided to annex to the report on its second session* the compilation of proposals submitted by the Working Group during its discussion of the review of arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations.

II. GENERAL REVIEW OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATIONS
WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

3. The Working Group considered item 2 of its agenda at the 1st to 5th meetings, from 8 to 12 and on 31 May 1995. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Working document for the second session of the Open-ended Working Group (E/AC.70/1995/CRP.1);

(b) Statement submitted by the International Service for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/1);

(c) Statement submitted by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/2);

(d) Statement submitted by the World Federation of United Nations Associations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/3);

(e) Statement submitted by the International Chamber of Commerce, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/4);

(f) Statement submitted by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/5);

(g) Statement submitted by the American Association of Retired Persons, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/6);

(h) Statement submitted by the International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/7);

(i) Statement submitted by Rotary International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/8).

* For the text of the compilation of proposals, see document E/1995/83/Add.1.

4. At the 1st meeting, on 8 May 1995, the Chairman made an introductory statement.

5. Statements were made by the representatives of France (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union), Canada, the United States of America and China.

6. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council made statements: World Federation of United Nations Associations, Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and American Association of Retired persons.

7. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, Roster, also made statements: Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations and International Synergy Institute.

8. At the 2nd meeting, on 8 May 1995, the representative of the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China) made a statement.

9. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council made statements: International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres, World Federalist Movement, Human Rights Internet, Service, Justice and Peace in Latin America, Rotary International and World Council of Indigenous Peoples.

10. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, Roster, also made statements: Canadian Council for International Cooperation, World Wide Fund for Nature, Third World Network, Instituto de Analises Sociais E Economicas (IBASE) and World Economy, Ecology and Development (WEED) (joint statement), United Nations Association of Sweden in Stockholm, Country Women Association of Nigeria, Instituto del Tercer Mundo and United Nations Association of the United States of America.

11. At the 5th meeting, on 31 May 1995, the Vice-President of the Council, H.E. Ambassador Gervais, proposed to the Working Group the adoption of the text of an oral draft decision agreed on the basis of informal consultations.

12. Before the adoption of the draft decision, statements were made by the representatives of India, the United States, the Russian Federation and Brazil.

13. The representative of India stated that the whole United Nations system, including United Nations bodies and conferences dealing not only with economic, social and sustained economic growth and sustainable development issues, but also with disarmament, finance, trade, law and humanitarian affairs, should be open to the participation of non-governmental organizations. In her view, the Economic and Social Council, as the only body dealing with non-governmental organization consultations, was also the only body competent to look into the matter and make suitable recommendations, as necessary, to the General Assembly.

Her delegation expected the Working Group to look into this matter, which was a proposal of the Group of 77, when it reconvened.

14. The representative of the United States noted the importance of the question of financial implications. In particular, he expressed concern over the possibility that the language contained in paragraphs (a) and (c) of the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision) might call for additional resources. He reserved the right to reopen negotiations on the text at the appropriate time in the event that the Secretariat issued a financial implications paper on the matter. The representative of the Russian Federation voiced the same concern as had been expressed by the representative of the United States regarding the financial implications of the draft decision.

15. Statements were also made by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Lutheran World Federation and International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres.

16. The Working Group then adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. A, draft decision).

17. Also at the 5th meeting, the Working Group, on the proposal of the Chairman, decided to annex to the report on its second session the text of the compilation of proposals submitted to the Working Group during its discussion of the review of arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision).

III. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

18. The Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations held its second session at United Nations Headquarters from 8 to 12 May 1995 and on 26 and 31 May 1995, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/80. The Working Group held five formal meetings and a number of informal meetings.

B. Agenda and organization of work

19. At the 1st meeting, on 8 May 1995, the Working Group adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/AC.70/1995/1. The agenda was as follows:

1. Adoption of agenda and organization of work.
2. General review of arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations.
3. Adoption of the report of the Working Group on its second session.

20. The Working Group approved the organization of work as proposed by the Chairman. The Chairman informed the Working Group that Mr. Jean-Marie Gervais (Côte d'Ivoire) would conduct informal consultations to ensure timely preparation of recommendations to the Economic and Social Council.

21. Taking into account the recommendation made by the General Assembly in its resolution 49/221, the Working Group decided not to hold meetings on Wednesday, 10 May 1995.

22. Statements were made by the representatives of the Philippines (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Bangladesh, Algeria and Cuba.

C. Attendance

23. Representatives of the following States attended the session: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.

24. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council were represented: American Association of Retired Persons, Canadian Council for International Cooperation, Communications Coordination Committee for the United Nations, Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council, Country Women Association of Nigeria, Human Rights Internet, Instituto De Analises Sociais E Economicas (IBASE), Institute del Tercer Mundo, International Confederation of Free Trade Associations, International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres, International Synergy Institute, Lutheran World Federation, Rotary International, Service, Justice and Peace in Latin America, Third World Network, United Nations Association of Sweden in Stockholm, United Nations Association of the United States of America, World Council of Indigenous Peoples, World Economy, Ecology and Development (WEED), World Federalist Movement, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Wide Fund for Nature.

D. Documentation

25. The Working Group had before it the following documents:*

- (a) Annotated provisional agenda (E/AC.70/1995/1);
- (b) Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Arrangements for Consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations on its first session (A/49/215-E/1994/99);
- (c) Working document for the second session of the Open-ended Working Group (E/AC.70/1995/CRP.1);
- (d) Statement submitted by the International Service for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/1);
- (e) Statement submitted by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/2);
- (f) Statement submitted by the World Federation of United Nations Associations, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/3);
- (g) Statement submitted by the International Chamber of Commerce, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/4);
- (h) Statement submitted by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/5);
- (i) Statement submitted by the American Association of Retired Persons, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/6);
- (j) Statement submitted by the International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centres, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category II (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/7);

* The Working Group also had available to it, for historical background, the report of the Secretary-General on the general review of arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations (document E/AC.70/1994/5), which had been before it at its first session; the report of the Working Group on its first session (A/49/215-E/1994/99); and the working document for the inter-sessional meeting (E/AC.70/1994/CRP.1).

(k) Statement submitted by Rotary International, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, category I (E/AC.70/1995/NGO/8).

IV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ITS
SECOND SESSION

26. At its 5th meeting, on 31 May 1995, the Working Group adopted the draft report on its second session (E/AC.70/1995/L.1).
