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RULES ON THE CONSULTATIVE STATUS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE AGENCY

The rules on the Consultative Status of Non-Governmental Organizations with the Agency[1] are reproduced in this document for the information of all Members.

[1] Approved by the General Conference on 1 October 1958 (GC(II)/RES/20).

RULES ON THE CONSULTATIVE STATUS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL
ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE AGENCY

(Approved by the General Conference on 1 October 1958)

I. Nature of consultative arrangements

1. The objectives of arrangements for consultation should be, on the one hand, to enable the Agency to secure expert information or advice from organizations having special competence in the field in which such information or advice is required, and to promote knowledge of the principles and activities of the Agency and, on the other hand, to enable organizations which represent important groups whose work is relevant to that of the Agency to express their views. The arrangements made should not be such as to overburden the Agency.

II. Principles and conditions to be applied in granting consultative status

2. In order to achieve the objectives set forth in paragraph 1 the following principles and conditions shall be applied by the Agency when considering whether to grant consultative status to a non-governmental organization:

- (a) The work of the organization shall be directly related to that of the Agency, and the organization shall be able to make a significant contribution to the Agency's work;
- (b) The aims and purposes of the organization shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Agency;
- (c) The organization shall undertake to support the work of the Agency and promote knowledge of its principles and activities, in accordance with the organization's aims and purposes and the nature and scope of its own competence and activities;
- (d) The organization shall be of recognized standing, having an established headquarters, an executive officer and a policy-making body, and shall have authority to speak for its members through its authorized representatives; and
- (e) The organization shall be an international non-governmental organization of worldwide or regional scope, except that consultative status may be granted to a national non-governmental organization after consultation and with the consent of the Member State concerned if the activities of the national organization are not covered by an international non-governmental organization and if the national organization has special competence on which the Agency wishes to draw.

III. Consultation with the General Conference and the Board of Governors

3. An organization to which consultative status is granted shall be entitled to the following privileges and facilities:

- (a) The provisional agenda of each session of the General Conference shall be communicated to the organization at the same time as it is communicated to Member States of the Agency;
- (b) The organization shall be invited to be represented by an observer at all sessions of the General Conference. The observer may be accompanied by a reasonable number of advisers. The observer and his advisers shall be entitled to attend all public meetings of the General Conference;
- (c) The organization may designate one authorized observer to attend public meetings of the Board of Governors. The observer may be accompanied by a reasonable number of advisers;

- (d) The Director General shall circulate to the members of an organ of the Agency any written statement submitted to him in one or more working languages of the Agency by the organization, if he considers it relevant to the work of that organ, if he has had an opportunity to suggest any changes he deems appropriate, and if the organization has taken account of such suggestions, provided that such a statement is of not more than 2 000 words;
 - (e) An authorized representative of the organization may make a brief oral statement at a public meeting of a Main Committee of the General Conference after consultation with the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be established by the Board and with the agreement of the Main Committee concerned. An organization wishing to make such an oral statement shall submit a written request to the Director General not later than forty-eight hours after the adoption of the agenda of the organ to which the statement is to be made. The Director General shall refer the request to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and the Committee shall make recommendations to the Main Committee concerned regarding the request and the item of the agenda under which the statement should be made;
 - (f) An authorized representative of the organization may make oral statements at a public meeting of any other committee or subsidiary body of the General Conference if that Committee or subsidiary body after consultation with the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations so decides; and
 - (g) The granting of a request by the organization to make an oral statement before a public meeting of the Board of Governors shall be subject to the rules of procedure of the Board.
4. The Director General shall be authorized, within the means at his disposal, to provide an organization to which consultative status is granted, facilities which include:
- (a) Prompt distribution to the organization of such non-restricted documents of the Agency as he may deem appropriate;
 - (b) Access to any document service for the press at the headquarters of the Agency;
 - (c) Use of the library or libraries of the Agency; and
 - (d) Appropriate seating arrangements at any meetings which the organization is entitled or invited to attend and facilities for obtaining appropriate documents during such meetings.

IV. Consultation with other meetings called under the auspices of the Agency

5. The Director General may invite an organization to which consultative status is granted to attend any meetings convened by the Agency, other than meetings of the General Conference and the Board of Governors, their committees and other subsidiary bodies. Such meetings may include technical conferences, meetings of experts, seminars, symposia and colloquia. Subject to any decision of the Board of Governors, the privileges and facilities accorded to an organization attending such a meeting shall conform, as far as appropriate, to the privileges and facilities set forth in Rules 3 and 4 of these Rules.

V. Consultation with the Secretariat

6. A non-governmental organization to which consultative status has been granted may consult with appropriate members of the Secretariat on matters of mutual interest. Such consultation may take place at the request of the non-governmental organization concerned or at the request of the Director General.

7. The Director General shall designate a liaison officer with whom the organization may consult and with whom arrangements may be made for consultation with other members of the Secretariat on matters of mutual interest.

8. Subject to the relevant financial regulations, the Director General may request a nongovernmental organization to which consultative status has been granted and which has special competence in a particular field to undertake specific studies or investigations or to prepare specific papers.

VI. Application for and withdrawal of consultative status

9. A non-governmental organization wishing to obtain consultative status shall submit its application to the Director General who shall refer the application to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the Board of Governors. The application shall be accompanied by the following documents and shall include the following information:

- (a) The text of the constitution of the organization;
- (b) The names and addresses of its senior officers;
- (c) Particulars of its composition including the names of any national organizations affiliated to it;
- (d) A copy of its latest annual or periodic report; and
- (e) The programme of the activities of the organization together with a descriptive statement of the extent to which the purposes of the organization relate to those of the Agency.

10. The organization shall provide at any time further information which may be requested by the Director General, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations or the Board on the matters referred to in sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e) of Rule 9 of these Rules.

11. After consideration of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the application of the organization, the Board shall decide whether consultative status shall be granted to the organization.

12. The Board may decide to withdraw consultative status from an organization if it persistently or flagrantly violates the obligations it has accepted in entering into consultative status with the Agency.

13. The Director General shall submit annually to the General Conference a list of the organizations to which consultative status has been granted.