6 June 2011

English only

**Committee on the Peaceful Uses
of Outer Space**
Fifty-fourth session
Vienna, 1-10 June 2011

Application process established for NGOs to obtain consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Note by the Secretariat

At its fifty-third session, in 2010, the Committee agreed that the Secretariat should contact the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to verify the application process and the duration of the procedure for granting consultative status with the Council (see A/65/20, para 313).

The present document contains information concerning the application process which NGOs have to follow in order to obtain a consultative status with ECOSOC.

The document also contains two Annexes, representing respectively the structure of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) NGOs website ('Applying for a consultative status') and an update of the ECOSOC status of NGOs having observer status with the Committee

Background information

The NGO Branch of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) is the focal point within the United Nations Secretariat for non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and for NGOs seeking status.

The NGO Branch services the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, a subsidiary body of the ECOSOC composed of 19 Member States. It also provides relevant advice and information concerning NGOs to representatives of the United Nations system, Member States and civil society.

The Branch works to strengthen and enhance dialogue between NGOs and the United Nations to enable NGOs to participate in the economic and social development activities of the organization. The nature of this support ranges from administrative and security procedures that give access to UN facilities to training, information and advice on the substance of the NGO contribution to the organization's goals and objectives.

Consultative relationship with the ECOSOC is governed by the principles contained in Council resolution 1996/31.[1] Consultative relationships with the ECOSOC may be established with international, regional, sub regional and national non-governmental, non-profit public or voluntary organizations that make a significant contribution to the work of the ECOSOC or its subsidiary bodies. Currently, 3,337 NGOs have consultative status with the ECOSOC.

Application process relating to the grant of consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)[2]

NGO wishing to have a consultative status with ECOSOC should follow certain procedures, such as registering on a dedicated website, filling in a questionnaire and presenting supporting documentation. The components of supporting documents are: (a) copy of constitution/charter and/or statutes/by-laws and amendments to those documents (pursuant to paragraph 10 of ECOSOC resolution 1996/31); (b) copy or certificate of registration: according to resolution 1996/31 an organization "should attest that it has been in existence for at least two years as at the date of receipt of the application by the Secretariat"; (c) copy of most recent financial statement and annual report; (d) copy of examples of your publications and recent articles or statements; and (e) organization chart (if available).

NGOs applications for consultative status with ECOSOC must be submitted by the first day of June of the year before the year the NGO wants to be considered for recommendation by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

The period between 1st June and the date the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations meets is dedicated by the NGO Branch to review the applications. Only after reviewed by an officer and considered complete, an application is submitted to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

When an application becomes part of the agenda of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations a letter is sent to the NGO informing them of the upcoming session and inviting to send no more than two representatives to be present during the session. The presence of NGO representatives in the room is in no way mandatory and it does not imply any advantages.

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations meets twice a year to decide which NGOs applying for consultative status it will recommend to the ECOSOC Council. During its Session, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations may ask questions to the NGO. Such questions are immediately sent to the NGO by

_____

[1] See http://esango.un.org/paperless/Web?page=static&content=resolution.

[2] Source: Website of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), NGO Branch (see http://esango.un.org/paperless/Web?page=static&content=apply).

the Secretariat and should be replied by the NGO as fast as possible in order to help the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations make a decision and avoid getting deferred to future sessions.

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommendations are published in a report and submitted to the next ECOSOC meeting for final approval. Official notification is sent to all reviewed NGOs, informing them about the Committee's recommendation.

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations may decide to defer an application review until the next session, pending clarifications and answers to questions asked to the NGO.

When the Council finally approves the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommendation to grant consultative status to an NGO, official notification is sent by the Secretariat.

Annex I: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) NGOs website: "Applying for consultative status"[3]

(a) General information
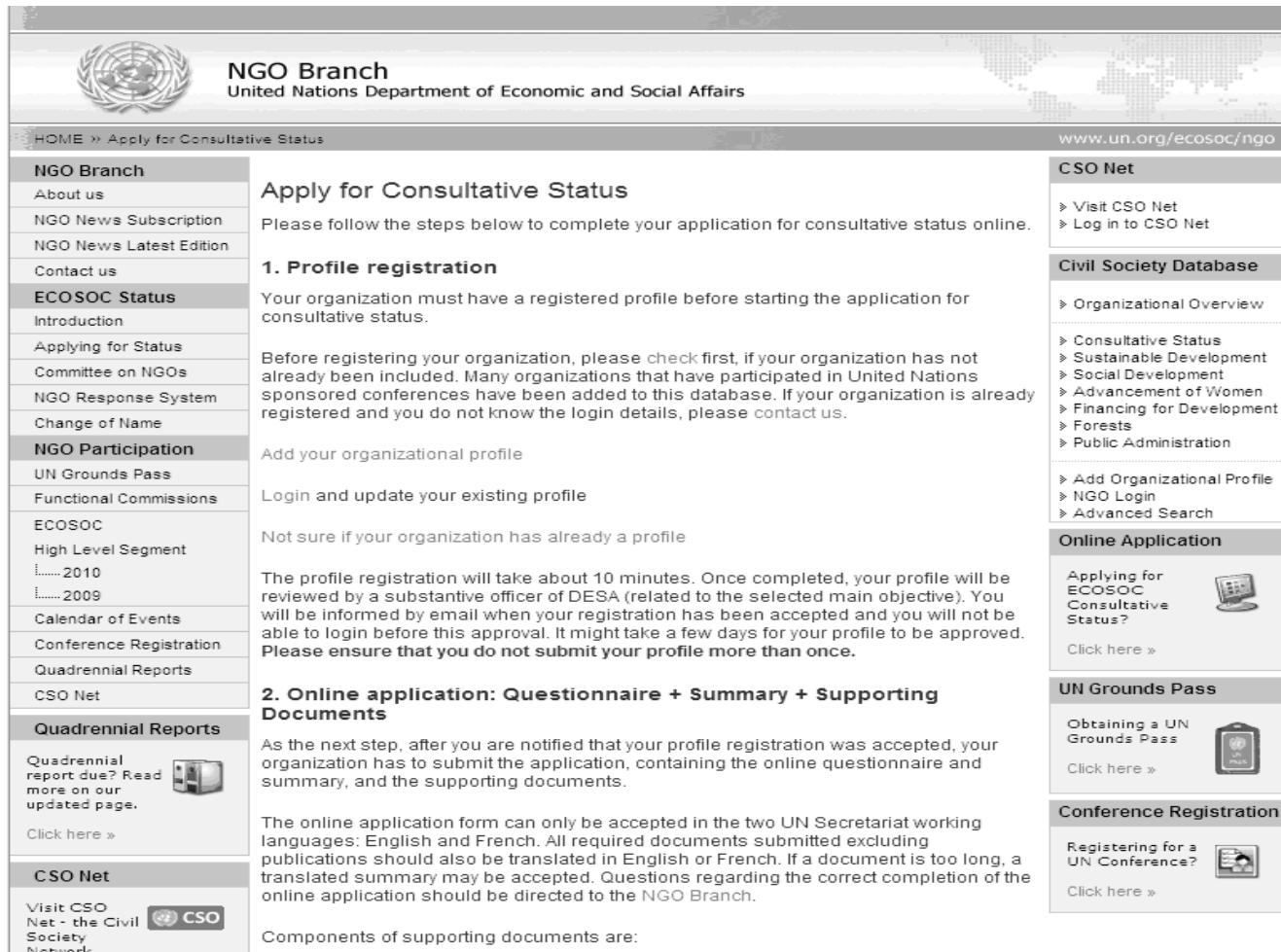
NGO Branch
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

HOME » Apply for Consultative Status   www.un.org/ecosoc/ngo

NGO Branch
About us
NGO News Subscription
NGO News Latest Edition
Contact us
ECOSOC Status
Introduction
Applying for Status
Committee on NGOs
NGO Response System
Change of Name
NGO Participation
UN Grounds Pass
Functional Commissions
ECOSOC
High Level Segment
⋮........2010
⋮........2009
Calendar of Events
Conference Registration
Quadrennial Reports
CSO Net

Quadrennial Reports
Quadrennial report due? Read more on our updated page.
Click here »

CSO Net
Visit CSO Net - the Civil Society Network

Apply for Consultative Status

Please follow the steps below to complete your application for consultative status online.

1. Profile registration

Your organization must have a registered profile before starting the application for consultative status.

Before registering your organization, please check first, if your organization has not already been included. Many organizations that have participated in United Nations sponsored conferences have been added to this database. If your organization is already registered and you do not know the login details, please contact us.

Add your organizational profile

Login and update your existing profile

Not sure if your organization has already a profile

The profile registration will take about 10 minutes. Once completed, your profile will be reviewed by a substantive officer of DESA (related to the selected main objective). You will be informed by email when your registration has been accepted and you will not be able to login before this approval. It might take a few days for your profile to be approved. **Please ensure that you do not submit your profile more than once.**

2. Online application: Questionnaire + Summary + Supporting Documents

As the next step, after you are notified that your profile registration was accepted, your organization has to submit the application, containing the online questionnaire and summary, and the supporting documents.

The online application form can only be accepted in the two UN Secretariat working languages: English and French. All required documents submitted excluding publications should also be translated in English or French. If a document is too long, a translated summary may be accepted. Questions regarding the correct completion of the online application should be directed to the NGO Branch.

Components of supporting documents are:

CSO Net
» Visit CSO Net
» Log in to CSO Net

Civil Society Database
» Organizational Overview

» Consultative Status
» Sustainable Development
» Social Development
» Advancement of Women
» Financing for Development
» Forests
» Public Administration

» Add Organizational Profile
» NGO Login
» Advanced Search

Online Application
Applying for ECOSOC Consultative Status?
Click here »

UN Grounds Pass
Obtaining a UN Grounds Pass
Click here »

Conference Registration
Registering for a UN Conference?
Click here »

_____

[3] Source: Website of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), NGO Branch (see http://esango.un.org/paperless/Web?page=static&content=about).

(b) Add organizational profile

(c) Create a new profile

(d) User access

Annex II: Current ECOSOC status of NGOs having observer status with the Committee[4]

No.	Name of the Organization	Year since becoming an observer with the Committee	ECOSOC Status
1.	African Organization of Cartography and Remote Sensing (AOCRS)	2007	No entries
2.	Association of Space Explorers (ASE)	1993	No entries
3.	Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)	2002	No entries
4.	Committee on Space Research (COSPAR)	1962	ECOSOC A1 - Roster Consultative Status (application year – no entry)
5.	European Space Policy Institute (ESPI)	2005	ECOSOC Special Consultative Status (application year – 2010)
6.	European Association for the International Space Year (EURISY)	2001	*Entry found. Status: this Organization is not in consultative status with ECOSOC*
7.	International Academy of Astronautics (IAA)	1995	ECOSOC Special Consultative Status (application year – 1996)
8.	International Astronautical Federation (IAF)	1976	ECOSOC Special Consultative Status (application year – 1964)
9.	International Astronomical Union (IAU)	1995	*Entry found. Status: this Organization is not in consultative status with ECOSOC.*

_____

[4] Source: Website of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), NGO Branch (see http://esango.un.org/civilsociety/displayConsultativeStatusSearch.do?method=search&sessionCheck=false).

No.	Name of the Organization	Year since becoming an observer with the Committee	ECOSOC Status
10.	International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)	2003	ECOSOC General Consultative Status (application year – 1995)
11.	International Institute of Space Law (IISL)	2008	*Entry found. Status: this organization is not in consultative status with ECOSOC*
12.	International Law Association (ILA)	1990	ECOSOC Special Consultative Status (application year – 1947)
13.	International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS)	1990	ECOSOC A1 - Roster Consultative Status (application year – no entry)
14.	International Space University (ISU)	1997	*Entry found. Status: this organization is not in consultative status with ECOSOC*
15.	National Space Society (NSS)	2001	ECOSOC Special Consultative Status (application year –1996)
16.	Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water (SIPW)	2008	No entries
17.	Secure World Foundation (SWF)	2008	ECOSOC Special Consultative Status (application year – 2010)
18.	Space Generation Advisory Council (SGAC)	2001	ECOSOC A1 - Roster Consultative Status (application year – 2005)
19.	The Planetary Society (TPS)	1996	ECOSOC Special Consultative Status (application year – 1991)
20.	World Space Week Association (WSWA)	2002	*Entry found. Status: this organization is not in consultative status with ECOSOC*

No.	Name of the Organization	Year since becoming an observer with the Committee	ECOSOC Status
21.	International Association for the Advancement of Space Safety (IAASS)	2010	*Entry found. Status: this organization is not in consultative status with ECOSOC*

NOTE: Below is the information taken from the website of ECOSOC explaining the various types of consultative status with that organization.[5]

General, Special and Roster status:

There are three categories of status: General consultative status, Special consultative status and Roster status.

General consultative status is reserved for large international NGOs whose area of work covers most of the issues on the agenda of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies. These tend to be fairly large, established international NGOs with a broad geographical reach.

Special consultative status is granted to NGOs which have a special competence in, and are concerned specifically with, only a few of the fields of activity covered by the ECOSOC. These NGOs tend to be smaller and more recently established.

Organizations that apply for consultative status but do not fit in any of the other categories are usually included in the Roster. These NGOs tend to have a rather narrow and/or technical focus. NGOs that have formal status with other UN bodies or specialized agencies (FAO, ILO, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, WHO and others), can be included on the ECOSOC Roster. The roster lists NGOs that ECOSOC or the UN Secretary-General considers can make "occasional and useful contributions to the work of the Council or its subsidiary bodies."

_____

_____

[5] Source: Website of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), NGO Branch (see www.un.org/esa/coordination/ngo/).