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NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

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I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To grant the following non-governmental organizations consultative status:

Category I

Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America

Category II

American Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc.
Anglican Consultative Council
Arab Women Solidarity Association
Association of African Women for Research and Development
Christian Children's Fund, Incorporated
Covenant House
European Federation of Conference Towns
General Arab Women Federation
General Conference of the Seventh Day Adventists
Housewives in Dialogue
Human Rights Advocates, Inc.
Indigenous World Association
Institute of Cultural Affairs (International)
Institute of Social Studies Trust
Inter African Union of Lawyers
Inter-University European Institute on Social Welfare
International Association of Women in Radio and Television
Islamic African Relief Agency
Italian Centre of Solidarity
Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees
Liberal International (World Liberal Union)
National Aboriginal and Islander Legal Services Secretariat
Save the Children Fund (United Kingdom)
Unión Iberoamericana de Colegios y Agrupaciones de Abogados
Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
World Vision International

Roster

Asian Non-governmental Organizations Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
Dayemi Complex, Dhaka
Hunger Project, The
International Assets Valuation Standard Committee
International Association for Driving Instruction and Traffic Education
International Emergency Action
International Federation for the protection of the Rights of Ethnic, Religious, Linguistic and Other Minorities
International Movement for the Apostolate of Children
International Society for General Semantics
International New Towns Association
PACE - United Kingdom
Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Co-operation
SUNSAT Energy Council

(b) To reclassify 1 organization from category II to category I consultative status and 7 organizations from the Roster to category II consultative status, as follows:

Category I

Zonta International

Category II

International Association of Judges
International Committee on the Management of Population Programmes
International Social Science Council
Population Council, The
Union of International Technical Associations
World Association for Element Building and Prefabrication
World Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations

DRAFT DECISION II

Withdrawal of consultative status

The Economic and Social Council decides to withdraw consultative status from the International Police Association.

DRAFT DECISION III

Provisional agenda and documentation for the session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be held in 1987

The Economic and Social Council approves the provisional agenda set out below, with the documents indicated, for the session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be held in 1987.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be held in 1987

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

Documentation

New applications for consultative status

Requests for reclassification

Deferred applications for consultative status and deferred requests for reclassification

4. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in categories I and II consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Documentation

Quadrennial reports on the activities of non-governmental organizations in categories I and II consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

5. Review of future activities

6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the session of the Committee to be held in 1989

7. Adoption of the report of the Committee

II. APPLICATIONS FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS AND REQUESTS FOR RECLASSIFICATION RECEIVED FROM NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

2. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 449th to 467th, 469th and 470th meetings, from 11 to 15 and 18 to 22 March 1985.

A. Matters on which action was taken by the Committee

1. Applications for consultative status

3. The Committee decided to recommend the Economic and Social Council to grant the following non-governmental organizations consultative status:

Category I

Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America 1/

Category II

American Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc. 2/
Anglican Consultative Council 2/
Arab Women Solidarity Association 2/
Association of African Women for Research and Development 2/
Christian Children's Fund, Incorporated 2/
Covenant House 2/
European Federation of Conference Towns 2/
General Arab Women Federation 2/
General Conference of the Seventh Day Adventists 2/
Housewives in Dialogue 2/
Human Rights Advocates, Inc. 2/
Indigenous World Association 2/
Institute of Cultural Affairs (International) 2/
Institute of Social Studies Trust 2/
Inter African Union of Lawyers 2/
Inter-University European Institute on Social Welfare 1/ 2/
International Association of Women in Radio and Television 2/
Islamic African Relief Agency 2/
Italian Centre of Solidarity 2/
Latin American Federation of Associations of Relatives of Disappeared Detainees 2/
Liberal International (World Liberal Union) 2/
National Aboriginal and Islander Legal Services Secretariat 2/
Save the Children Fund (United Kingdom) 2/
Unión Iberoamericana de Colegios y Agrupaciones de Abogados 2/
Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2/
World Vision International 2/

1/ The organization had applied for category I consultative status.

2/ The organization had applied for category II consultative status.

Roster

Asian Non-governmental Organizations Coalition for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development 3/
Dayemi Complex, Dhaka 3/
Hunger Project, The 2/
International Assets Valuation Standard Committee 3/
International Association for Driving Instruction and Traffic Education 2/
International Emergency Action 2/
International Federation for the protection of the Rights of Ethnic, Religious, Linguistic and Other Minorities 3/
International Movement for the Apostolate of Children 2/
International Society for General Semantics 2/
International New Towns Association 3/
PACE - United Kingdom 3/
Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Co-operation 3/
SUNSAT Energy Council 2/

4. The Committee decided not to approve the applications of the following organizations:

Armenian Relief Society, Inc. 2/
Center for Development Policy 2/
International Mazdayasnan Order 2/
Sudanic Refugee Organization 1/

2. Requests for reclassification

5. The Committee decided to recommend the Economic and Social Council to reclassify 1 organization from category II to category I consultative status and 7 organizations from the Roster to category II consultative status, as follows:

Category I

Zonta International 4/

Category II

International Association of Judges 5/
International Committee on the Management of Population Programmes 5/

3/ The organization had applied for placement on the Roster.

4/ The organization had requested reclassification to category I consultative status.

5/ The organization had requested reclassification to category II consultative status.

International Social Science Council 5/
Population Council, The 4/
Union of International Technical Associations 5/
World Association for Element Building and Prefabrication 5/
World Federation of UNESCO Clubs and Associations 5/

6. The Committee decided not to approve the requests of the following organizations:

International Council of Monuments and Sites 4/
International Electrotechnical Commission 4/
World Council of Credit Unions 4/

B. Matters considered by the Committee and deferred to its session to be held in 1987

1. Applications for consultative status

7. The Committee decided to defer further consideration of the applications of the following organizations to its session in 1987 and to consider those applications at that session as a matter of priority:

American Management Association International 1/
Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace 2/
Center for Development and Population Activities 1/
European Action in Disability 2/
European Environment Bureau 3/
Federation of Arab News Agencies 2/
International Union of Air Pollution Prevention Associations 2/
Islamic Call Society 1/
Lawyers' Committee for International Human Rights 3/ 6/

6/ In the view of the delegation of the United States of America, the Lawyers' Committee for International Human Rights was a completely legitimate organization concerned with the application of the standards contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other United Nations instruments, which fully met the requirements of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968. For this reason, the delegation of the United States expressed serious reservations regarding the decision of the Committee to defer to its session in 1987 further consideration of the application of this organization for consultative status and expected the Committee to take a final decision on the matter at that session, in accordance with the wishes of the organization itself.

The Chairman, speaking as the representative of Costa Rica, said that her delegation supported the application of the Lawyers' Committee for International Human Rights for the granting of consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

8. The Committee also decided to defer further consideration of the applications of the following organizations to its session in 1987:

Club of Life 1/ 7/
International Association against Torture 2/
International Bureau for the Development of Human Resources 2/
International Federation of Consulting Engineers 2/
International Human Rights Law Group 2/
International Rescue Committee 2/ 8/

7/ In connection with the application of the organization, the representative of Pakistan reiterated her Government's policy of upholding the principle of respect for human rights and human dignity and stated that it was the responsibility of non-governmental organizations engaged in this field to be mindful of the value of objectivity in their study of human rights situations. If they were unable to maintain objectivity in their work, it would reflect poorly on those organizations and demonstrate their inability to deal with such matters. She expressed her disappointment that the work of the organization was highly biased and one-sided, in the context of the work done by it in support of the activities of the United Nations. She asked the representative of the organization whether such a biased approach reflected the official and deliberate policy of the Club of Life and if the representative of that organization could elaborate upon the sources of information used for its work in such cases.

The representative of the Club of Life stated that, in 1982, a group of people belonging to the Pakistan People's Party had invited the organization to study the alleged violations of human rights in Pakistan. The organization had undertaken that work in the context of its commitment to the principle of respect for national sovereignty. The organization had subsequently discovered that the group of people which had extended the invitation was misusing the Club of Life for the purposes of promoting separatist movements that would dismember Pakistan. At that point, the organization had severed its contacts with that group and stopped the work which was based on misleading information.

In view of the information provided by the representative of the Club of Life, the representative of Pakistan indicated that her delegation did not object to granting consultative status to the organization provided that assurances were given by the organization that in the future it would work independently, without allowing itself to be exploited or misled by those engaged in activities against Member States.

8/ Some delegations categorically rejected the application of the International Rescue Committee because certain of the aims of the organization contradicted those in the Charter of the United Nations and its activities were of an anti-humanitarian character. Other delegations felt that the Committee should be willing to accord Roster status to the International Rescue Committee as a minimum recognition of the organization's invaluable contributions to the humanitarian endeavours of the United Nations.

International Society for Human Rights 3/
International Tunnelling Association 2/
Washington Office on Latin America 2/
World Federation of Direct Selling Associations 2/
World Fellowship of Religions 2/

2. Requests for reclassification

9. The Committee decided to defer further consideration of the requests of the following organizations to its session in 1987 and to consider those requests at that session as a matter of priority:

Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization 4/
Associated Country Women of the World 4/
Data for Development 5/
International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty 5/
Minority Rights Group 5/ 9/

10. The Committee decided to consider the request of the Minority Rights Group at its session in 1987, on the understanding that it should be given priority, and without prejudice to any final decision the Committee might wish to take.

11. The Committee also decided to defer further consideration of the request of the following organization to its session in 1987:

Airlines' Worldwide Telecommunications and Information Services - A Co-operative Society 5/

C. Matters not considered by the Committee

1. Applications for consultative status

12. The applications of the following organizations were not considered by the Committee:

9/ The delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland expressed its regret that it had not been possible for the Committee to come to a decision on the application of the Minority Rights Group for reclassification to category II consultative status, considering the importance of its work and the number of times that the application had been deferred. In the view of the delegation of the United Kingdom, the organization fully met the requirements of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). The delegation of the United Kingdom therefore expressed the hope that it would be possible for the Committee to reach a decision on the request at its session in 1987.

Africa Club 1/
Africa Genetics Association 3/
Andean Commission of Jurists 2/
Arab Organization for Human Rights 2/
Change 2/
European Federation for Intercultural Learning 3/
Fédération internationale libre de déportés et internes de la résistance 2/
Federation of Islamic Associations in the United States and Canada 2/
Giants International 3/
Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development 1/
International Association of Islamic Banks 2/
International Federation of Catholic Pharmacists 2/
International Feminist Network Against Female Sexual Slavery 2/
International Institute 1/
Latin American Human Rights Association 2/
National Association of Victims of Support Schemes 2/
Project Orbis, Inc. 2/
Society of American Travel Writers 2/
Third World Movement against the Exploitation of Women 3/
Young European Federalists 1/

2. Requests for reclassification

13. The requests of the following organizations were not considered by the Committee:

Club of Dakar 5/
International Association of Airport and Seaport Police 5/
International Road Safety 5/

D. Withdrawal of consultative status

14. The Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it should withdraw the current Roster status held by the International Police Association. 10/

10/ Most delegations supported the decision because of the active link between the International Police Association and the Government of South Africa; other delegations supported the decision because the organization had provided misinformation to the Committee.

III. REVIEW OF QUADRENNIAL REPORTS SUBMITTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CATEGORIES I AND II CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

15. Owing to a lack of time, the Committee, at its 469th meeting, on 22 March 1985, decided to defer consideration of the quadrennial reports on the activities of non-governmental organizations in categories I and II consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/C.2/1985/2 and Add.1-2) to its session in 1987. 11/

IV. OTHER MATTERS DEFERRED FROM THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE HELD IN 1984

16. The Committee considered item 50 of the agenda at its 462nd and 463rd meetings, on 19 March 1985.

17. The Committee was informed, by letters read out by the Chairman, that the delegation of Cyprus and the representatives of the World Muslim Congress and the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange had reached an understanding which was reflected in the communications addressed to the Secretariat by the delegation of Cyprus and the organizations. As a consequence, the delegation of Cyprus stated that it did not wish to pursue the matter further. In view of the above, the Committee decided not to debate the item and thus concluded its consideration of the item.

V. REVIEW OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES

18. The Committee considered item 6 of the agenda at its 468th and 470th meetings, on 21 and 22 March 1985.

19. At its 468th meeting, the Committee was informed of the current procedures governing the relations of non-governmental organizations with the United Nations, in particular those pertaining to the Secretariat, and that the bulletin outlining those procedures contained no new directives with financial implications.

11/ The delegations of Cuba and Nicaragua said that, since the Committee did not have time to complete its consideration of all the items on the agenda of its 1985 session, they could, in a constructive spirit, agree to the Chairman's proposal to defer some items of the agenda, including that on quadrennial reports to the 1987 session. However, they wished to express their strong reservations at the fact that the Committee had been unable to consider at its current session the quadrennial report of the Inter-American Press Association, consideration of which had been deferred from the 1984 session to the 1985 session, since a number of delegations had voiced serious concern at the fact that the activities of that organization did not meet the requirements of the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council.

20. At the same meeting, the Committee considered the resolution adopted at its session held in 1983 (see E/1983/11, para. 3) relating to the procedures for the review of its future activities, in particular paragraph (a) thereof, by which the Secretary-General was asked to provide the factual information necessary for the Committee to begin the review. In this connection, one delegation suggested that the Secretary-General should prepare a survey on the way in which non-governmental organizations interact with substantive bodies and on their compliance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). The same delegation also suggested that an analysis should be made of the non-governmental organizations currently holding consultative status in terms of their fields of work and the primary focus of their activities. Another representative indicated that the assessment should also include a survey of the geographical representation of the non-governmental organizations.

21. During the general debate on the issue, various delegations stressed the need to maintain the principle that the activities of the non-governmental organizations should be guided by the Charter of the United Nations and by the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). They expressed the view that this principle should be of primary concern to the Committee when making recommendations regarding the consultative status of non-governmental organizations that were either applying for consultative status or requesting reclassification. The validity of the various categories of consultative status, established under Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), was considered to be of paramount importance when the Committee was considering the applications of non-governmental organizations for consultative status in the various categories. Several delegations suggested that special attention should be given to encouraging non-governmental organizations from developing and socialist countries to apply for consultative status and that the Committee should bear this in mind when considering them for consultative status. One delegation pointed out that qualified non-governmental organizations from developed countries should not be excluded at the expense of organizations originating in the developing countries. That delegation also called upon Governments in the developing world to create an environment which encouraged the creation of non-governmental organizations in their own countries.

22. The Committee heard a statement by the President of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council in which she referred to Economic and Social Council resolution 1981/44 of 8 May 1981, on the review of the current practices of the Committee, which was to be based on the full implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), particularly in so far as it described and guided the consultative process.

23. The President of the Conference also drew the attention of the Committee to the statement of principles and concerns regarding the activities of non-governmental organizations, which had been adopted by the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council.

24. One delegation asked that the statement of principles and concerns referred to by the President of the Conference be circulated as an official document.

25. The Committee also discussed the question of the rationalization of its future work. A number of suggestions were made in this connection. It was stressed that the Committee was not able to work effectively unless the documentation were made available well in advance of its meetings.

26. Several delegations indicated that limiting the number of applications to reconsider at a given session of the Committee might improve the effectiveness of its work. In this connection, it was suggested that applications from non-governmental organizations should be accepted only from those that had been in existence for more than four years. It was also proposed that priorities should be given to applications from non-governmental organizations working in fields that were not frequently covered by the non-governmental organizations currently in consultative status. Several delegations suggested grouping non-governmental organizations whose activities were similar or related in nature, while others considered the practical aspects of this unworkable.

27. With regard to the methods for rationalizing the consideration of applications from non-governmental organizations, several delegations suggested that the Committee might establish a working group which would undertake an examination of the applications before the Committee began its consideration of all of the applications received; there was, however, no agreement on this matter. Various delegations also indicated that the work of the Committee in examining applications would be greatly facilitated by obtaining from the non-governmental organizations larger quantities of their publications and whatever reference material could be made available on their activities and aims.

VI. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN 1987

28. At its 470th meeting, on 22 March 1985, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its session to be held in 1987 and decided to submit it to the Council for its review (see chap. I, draft decision III).

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

29. At its 470th meeting, on 22 March 1985, the Committee adopted the report on its session in 1985 (E/C.2/1985/L.1 and Add.1-5), as amended during the discussion.

VIII. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

30. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations met at United Nations Headquarters, from 11 to 22 March 1985. The Committee held 23 meetings (448th to 470th meetings) and a number of informal meetings. The session was opened by Emilia Castro de Barish (Costa Rica), Chairman of the Committee in 1983.

B. Attendance

Members of the Committee

31. Representatives of the following States members of the Committee attended the session: Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, France, Ghana, India, Kenya, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sweden, Thailand, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Yugoslavia.

32. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Algeria, Austria, Bangladesh, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Federal Republic of, Iraq, Italy, Jamaica, Mongolia, Oman, Romania, Sudan, Togo, Uganda.

33. The Holy See was represented by an observer.

34. The following specialized agencies were represented: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization.

35. The following non-governmental organizations attended the session:

Category I. International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women, Muslim World League, Soroptimist International, United Towns Organization, World Muslim Congress;

Category II. Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization; Agudas Israel World Organization; Anti-Slavery Society for the Protection of Human Rights, The; Associated Country Women of the World; Bahá'í International Community; Baptist World Alliance; Catholic Relief Services - United States Catholic Conference, Inc; Christian Peace Conference; Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches; International Catholic Child Bureau; Interntional Electrotechnical Commission; International Federation for Home Economics; International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres; International Fellowship of Reconciliation; International Movement ATD Fourth World; Latin American Iron and Steel Institute; Pax Christi, International Catholic Peace Movement; Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs); (International Movement of Catholic Students); Prison Fellowship International; Union of Arab Jurists; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations; World Association of Former United Nations Internes and Fellows; World Council of Credit Unions, Inc.; World Movement of Mothers; World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations; World Women's Christian Temperance Union; World Young Women's Christian Association;

Roster. International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty, International Federation of Surveyors, International Police Association, Minority Rights Group, Movement for a Better World, International Paediatric Association.

C. Election of officers

36. At its 448th to 450th meetings, on 11 and 12 March, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Emilia CASTRO DE BARISH (Costa Rica)

Vice-Chairman: Alexandros N. VIKIS (Cyprus)

Rapporteur: Ashur FARTAS (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

D. Agenda

37. At its 448th and 449th meetings, on 11 March, the Committee considered the provisional agenda for the session (E/C.2/1985/1). At its 449th meeting the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations.
4. Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in categories I and II.
5. Other matters deferred from the 1984 special session of the Committee.
6. Review of future activities.
7. Provisional agenda and documentation for the next session of the Committee.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

E. Documentation

38. The list of documents before the Committee is given in the annex to the present report.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS SESSION IN 1985

Symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
E/C.2/1985/1	2	Provisional agenda
E/C.2/1985/2 and Add.1-2	4	Quadrennial reports, 1980-1984, on the activities of non-governmental organizations in categories I and II consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: report prepared by the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968
E/C.2/1985/CRP.1	5	Statements submitted by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange and the World Muslim Congress
E/C.2/1985/L.1 and Add.1-5	8	Draft report
E/C.2/1985/L.2	7	Draft provisional agenda for the 1987 session of the Committee: note by the Secretariat
E/C.2/R.62 and Add.1-4	3	New applications for consultative status: memorandum by the Secretary-General
E/C.2/R.63	3	Requests for reclassification: memorandum by the Secretary-General
E/C.2/R.64 and Add.1	3	Deferred applications for consultative status and deferred requests for reclassification: memorandum by the Secretary-General

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