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NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

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Annex

Representatives of non-governmental organizations heard by the Committee during its session from 17 to 21 January 1972

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

1. The Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations met at United Nations Headquarters from 17 to 21 January 1972.
2. At its 319th meeting, on 17 January 1972, Mr. Kofi Sekyiamah (Ghana) was elected Chairman. Mr. Gyula Budai (Hungary) was elected Vice-Chairman/Rapporteur. The other countries represented on the Committee were Bolivia, France, Greece, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Peru, Tunisia, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America.
3. During its session, the Committee considered a total of 13 applications for consultative status from non-governmental organizations as well as eight requests for reclassification. It also considered Economic and Social Council resolutions 1580 (L) and 1651 (LI).
4. The Committee had before it document E/C.2/R.43, containing applications and re-applications for consultative status as well as requests for reclassification and an annotated provisional agenda (E/C.2/L.31). It also had before it a note by the Secretary-General concerning the contribution of non-governmental organizations towards the implementation of the International Development Strategy (E/C.2/744), and conference room papers.
5. The names of those representatives of non-governmental organizations who were heard by the Committee appear in the annex to this report.

II. CATEGORIZATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

6. On the basis of information submitted by non-governmental organizations, as contained in document E/C.2/R.43, as well as on additional information requested by members of the Committee in certain cases, the Committee decided to recommend one organization for category I, eight organizations for category II and 12 organizations for the Roster.

A. Requests for reclassification

Inter-American Federation of Touring and Automobile Clubs (FITAC)

The Committee recommended that this organization be placed in category II.

International Automobile Federation (FIA)

The Committee recommended that this organization be placed in category II.

International Council on Alcoholism and Addictions

The Committee recommended that this organization be placed in category II.

International Council on Social Welfare

The representatives of France, Greece, Japan, Kenya, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America suggested that this organization be recommended for reclassification to category I. The representatives of Hungary and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics expressed reservations about this, noting paragraphs 15 and 18 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

The Committee recommended that this organization be placed in category I.

The representatives of Hungary and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that their delegations would have abstained if a vote had been taken. The representative of Greece stated that his delegation would have supported this organization for category I had a vote been taken.

International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations

The discussion revolved around the question of whether this organization should be on the Roster or in category II. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics proposed that it be recommended for category II.

The Committee, by 4 votes to none, with 7 abstentions, adopted this proposal.

International Federation of Landscape Architects

The representative of the United States of America proposed that this organization be retained on the Roster. This proposal was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 7 abstentions.

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

By 9 votes to none, with 2 abstentions, the Committee decided to recommend that this organization be placed in category II.

World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ)

After considerable discussion and following a proposal by the representative of Tunisia, the Committee decided by 4 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions to retain this organization on the Roster. In an explanation of vote, the representative of the United States of America stated that he had voted against this motion because his Government would have preferred reclassification to category II for this organization. The representative of France stated that, had his delegation been present during the vote, it would have abstained.

During the debate, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics expressed the view that the activities of some non-governmental organizations are contrary to the guidelines of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) and that, in view of that fact, the World Jewish Congress, in particular, should be deprived of consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

B. New applications for consultative status

European Association of Refrigeration Enterprises (AEEF)

Although the organization asked to be placed in category II, the Committee recommended that it be placed on the Roster.

Federation for the Respect of Man and Humanity

Although the organization asked to be placed in category II, the Committee recommended that it be placed on the Roster. The representative of France stated that, had his delegation received the documentation in time, it would have favoured recommending this organization for category II.

International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals.

Although the organization asked to be placed in category II, the Committee recommended that it be placed on the Roster.

International Board of Co-operation for the Developing Countries (EMCO)

Although the organization asked to be placed in category II, the Committee decided to recommend it for the Roster.

International Civil Airport Association

The Committee decided to recommend this organization for category II.

International Co-operation for Socio-Economic Development (CIDSE)

After considerable discussion, the Committee, by 5 votes to 2, with 4 abstention, adopted the proposal of the representative of the United States of America that this organization be placed in category II. The representatives of France, Ghana, Hungary, Peru, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland indicated either during the discussion or during the voting that they thought it would have been more advisable to place this organization on the Roster.

International Federation of Pedestrians

Although the organization had asked to be placed in category II, the Committee decided to recommend it for the Roster.

International Federation of Resistance Movements

After considerable discussion, a proposal made by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, supported by the representative of Hungary, to place this organization in category II was rejected, by 5 votes to 4, with 2 abstentions. During the discussion, the Committee agreed to hear the observer from Poland who spoke in favour of placing this organization in category II. The Committee then adopted, by 7 votes to none, with 4 abstentions, a proposal by the representative of Greece to place the organization on the Roster. In an explanation of vote, the representative of Japan stated that his delegation had supported the recommendation to place this organization on the Roster because its membership was confined mainly to Europe.

International Rural Housing Association

The Committee recommended this organization for category II.

Panafrican Institute for Development

The Committee decided to recommend this organization for the Roster. The representative of France stated that, had his delegation received the documentation in time, it would have favoured recommending this organization for category II.

Society for Social Responsibility in Science

The Committee decided to recommend this organization for the Roster.

The Pio Mansú International Research Centre for Environmental Structures

Although this organization had asked to be placed in category II, the Committee decided to recommend it for the Roster.

The Population Council

A proposal by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that this organization be placed on the Roster was adopted by the Committee by 6 votes to 3, with 1 abstention. In an explanation of vote, the representative of the United States of America stated that his delegation had voted against placing this organization on the Roster since it favoured placing it in category II.

III. MEASURES TO BE TAKEN IN IMPLEMENTATION OF COUNCIL
RESOLUTIONS 1580 (L) AND 1651 (LI)

7. The Committee had before it resolution 1580 (L) entitled "Contribution of non-governmental organizations towards the implementation of the International Development Strategy", adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its 1769th plenary meeting on 20 May 1971. The Committee also had before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/744) which provided tentative suggestions to the Committee based on preliminary consultations with non-governmental organizations and with relevant units within the United Nations.
8. The Committee also had before it resolution 1651 (LI) entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations", adopted by the Council at its 1805th plenary meeting on 29 October 1971.
9. Both of those resolutions request the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council at its fifty-fourth session. Resolution 1580 (L) requests the Committee to examine the contributions towards the implementation of the International Development Strategy already made or being planned by non-governmental organizations in consultative status and active primarily in the field of economic and social development and to submit recommendations on improving those contributions. Resolution 1651 (LI) requests the Committee to study how non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council can assist in the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.
10. The Committee discussed various ways in which to pursue the work requested of it. One was to obtain the basic information required by means of a questionnaire. Another was to have interviews with non-governmental organizations during which the subjects could be dealt with in more depth. Through the use of conference room papers the Committee was able to review the kinds of questions that might be asked. The necessity of analysing and summarizing lengthy replies to those questions, or of producing far too bulky a report if neither analysis nor summary was provided, posed a problem. Either way had financial implications. The Committee also considered a shorter questionnaire, one that required minimum preparation by the Secretariat, which would be supplemented by interviews to be held in the European cities where the majority of non-governmental organizations have their international headquarters. Nevertheless, even if these informal consultations were conducted by only the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Committee accompanied by the Secretary of the Committee, they would still involve financial implications.
11. With the overriding concern of avoiding any financial implications, the Committee decided on two short questionnaires, one relating to resolution 1580 (L) and comprising three questions and the other containing one question relating to resolution 1651 (LI). In addition, the Committee authorized the Secretary of the

Committee to hold informal consultations in connexion with these two questionnaires with non-governmental organizations during his usual visits to the headquarters of various non-governmental organizations in Europe and elsewhere.

12. The Chairman, speaking as the representative of Ghana, said that the decision adopted by the Committee would not lead to a speedy and effective implementation of the Economic and Social Council resolutions on implementation by non-governmental organizations of the Development Strategy and the Declaration on decolonization. He reserved his delegation's right to speak further on this matter at a future date.

13. The representative of Greece also stated that his delegation shared the doubts expressed by the Chairman as to the effect of the decision adopted for implementing the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council and expressed the view that direct consultations of the Committee's Bureau with non-governmental organizations, which had been ruled out because of minor financial implications, would have been highly beneficial.

Decisions on the questionnaires, their processing
and other information-gathering

14. In connexion with the questionnaire relating to resolution 1580 (L) dealing with the International Development Strategy, the Committee voted as follows:

Question I was adopted by 10 votes to none, with 1 abstention. The adopted text reads as follows: "Give brief examples of your organization's programmes already made and being planned that might be considered a contribution to the United Nations International Development Strategy".

Question II was adopted by 8 votes to 2, with 1 abstention. It reads as follows: "What practical suggestions do you have for developing more meaningful and productive relationships with the Economic and Social Council to enable your organization to contribute more effectively towards the implementation of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade?"

15. A proposal by the representative of Hungary to delete the words "for developing more meaningful and productive relationships with the Economic and Social Council" was rejected by 6 votes to 4, with 1 abstention.

Question III was adopted by 8 votes to 1, with 2 abstentions. It reads as follows: "Does your organization have any activities for mobilizing public opinion and political will on behalf of the United Nations development efforts, including dissemination of information?"

16. During the debate on question II of the questionnaire, the representatives of Hungary and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics said that the questionnaire contained elements which did not correspond to the tasks of the Committee as set forth in the relevant Economic and Social Council resolutions.

17. The representative of Japan, in an explanation of vote, said that his delegation voted against question III because it felt that public opinion did not play a decisive role in the implementation of the International Development Strategy and that the inclusion of this question would only impose an unnecessary burden on the Secretariat in preparing its report.

18. In connexion with the questionnaire relating to resolution 1651 (LI) on decolonization, the Committee adopted the one question contained in this questionnaire by 8 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions. The text as adopted reads: "What measures are being carried out by your organization, and what suggestions do you have for assisting in the achievement of the objectives of Council resolution 1651 (LI)?"

19. In order to avoid any financial implications, it was agreed that the questionnaires would be handled as follows: the first questionnaire relating to resolution 1580 (L), on the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the implementation of the International Development Strategy, would require replies only from those non-governmental organizations active primarily in the field of economic and social development. Their replies, which should be confined to a single page for each organization, would be submitted informally to the Committee members in the language in which they were received. All non-governmental organizations in category I or II or on the Roster would be asked to reply to the questionnaire relating to resolution 1651 (L) on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Their answers should also be confined to a single page. This material would be retained by the Secretariat and made available for the perusal of the representatives of any delegation who might wish to review it. The Secretary of the Committee would, at the next regular session of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations early in 1973, make an oral report to the Committee giving it some of the highlights of the replies to this questionnaire.

20. The Committee decided to supplement its information-gathering relating to both resolution 1580 (L) and resolution 1651 (LI) by holding up to three meetings of the Committee during the first few days of the fifty-third session of the Economic and Social Council at Geneva, at which time relevant non-governmental organizations could appear before the Committee both to give information and to ask questions. Since the extra meetings of the Committee could be held in the time that the Economic and Social Council would most likely be in plenary session during its first two days, there would be no financial implications.

21. The Secretary is to report orally to the Committee at its session to be held during the fifty-third session of the Economic and Social Council regarding his consultations in Geneva held up to that time. Subsequently he will also make a brief written report to the Committee regarding all his consultations with non-governmental organizations relating to the two questionnaires.

Additional discussions under this item

22. In the course of its discussions on resolutions 1580 (L) and 1651 (LI), the Committee heard from a number of representatives to United Nations Headquarters of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. It also heard from the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council as well as from the Chairman of the Non-Governmental Organizations Committee on the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The Committee noted that the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council would be holding its triennial meeting at Geneva during the time the Council was in session and expressed its hope that the Conference would seriously consider the implications of resolutions 1580 (L) and 1651 (LI).

23. During the discussions, a representative from the Liaison Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at United Nations Headquarters, speaking on behalf of his colleagues in the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), informed the Committee of the desire of their organizations to continue to work closely with non-governmental organizations and of the need for co-ordination and co-operation among United Nations organizations with regard to the work they all do with relevant non-governmental organizations.

24. After having heard from the representatives of non-governmental organizations, several members of the Committee expressed their appreciation of the variety of contributions made by non-governmental organizations to the work programmes of the United Nations and referred in particular to their contributions in the field of development.

25. The Committee agreed that the questionnaire relating to resolution 1580 (L) would enable it to fulfil its obligations under paragraph 40 (b) of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) which requires the Committee to review every four years the activities of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The Committee noted that this agreement was in accordance with the discussion it had had during its regular meetings in 1971, the substance of which is contained in part V of the Committee's report to the Economic and Social Council at its fiftieth session (E/4945).

26. The Committee adopted for inclusion in its report the following paragraph introduced by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and orally amended by the representative of the United Kingdom.

During the discussion of agenda items 3 and 4 it was stressed that in accordance with Council resolutions 1296 (XLIV), 1580 (L) and 1651 (LI), account should be taken, when considering applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification, of the contribution which non-governmental organizations are making or can make to the work of the

United Nations, particularly with regard to decolonization and the implementation of the Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. Some delegations also stressed that account should also be taken of the non-governmental organizations' specific contribution to the development of friendly relations and the elimination of all forms of colonialism, racial hatred and enmity between peoples.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Reinstitution of summary records

27. The representatives of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (to which a substantial number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council belong) requested the Committee to resume the use of summary records at least for those meetings of the Committee at which particular non-governmental organizations were discussed. They also suggested that summary records would be in the interest of the Committee whose membership changed annually. They suggested that the new members found it difficult to categorize non-governmental organizations seeking status or requesting reclassification, in the absence of summary records of discussions held at previous sessions of the Committee relating to similar non-governmental organizations. It was also suggested that summary records be used at those meetings of the Committee where non-governmental organizations made oral statements, since that was the only way to have an adequate record of those statements.

28. In response, several members of the Committee noted the validity of the points raised by the representatives of the non-governmental organizations but, in the end, the Committee decided that the financial implications involved, both directly and indirectly, did not justify the Committee's resumption of summary records.

Rescheduling of the Committee's meetings

29. The Committee requested its Secretary to explore the possibility of rescheduling the Committee's regular annual session to some time in February in order to make it possible for the members of the Committee, especially newly elected members, to receive documents in time to prepare for the Committee's work. The representative of France stated that because the French version of the documentation had been received late it had been difficult for his delegation to prepare for the Committee's session.

Annex

REPRESENTATIVES OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS HEARD BY THE
COMMITTEE DURING ITS SESSION FROM 17 TO 21 JANUARY 1972

Category I

*International Union of Local Authorities: Charles Ascher

League of Red Cross Societies: Posy Sheppard

**World Federation of United Nations Associations: Horace Perera

Category II

International Council on Social Welfare: Kate Katzki

**International Social Service: Rosalind Harris

International Student Movement for the United Nations: Tsukigo Scullion

International Touring Alliance: Anton Blankert, V.M. Kabes

World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations: Catherine Schaefer

World Young Women's Christian Associations: Margaret G. Forsyth

Roster

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts: Phyllis G. Heard

World Union of Progressive Judaism: Rabbi William A. Rosenthal

New applicants for consultative status

Federation for the Respect of Man and Humanity: Paul Alpert

International Board of Co-operation for the Developing Countries (EMCO):
Carmelo Conte

Society for Social Responsibility in Science: Alice Hilton

* Mr. Ascher also represents Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration, Inter-American Planning Society, International Federation for Housing and Planning, International Information Centre for Local Credit, International Institute of Administrative Sciences and International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions.

** Mr. Perera is also President of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status and Mrs. Harris is the Vice-President.