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RELATIONS OF CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS

(Note by the Executive Secretary)

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(Note by the Executive Secretary)

The Economic and Social Council of the United Nations decided at its thirteenth session to recommend to regional economic commissions (Resolution 414 (XIII) C.1, paragraph (5));

"that they examine the desirability of revising their rules of procedure regarding consultative relations with non-governmental organizations in the light of the rules on consultation with non-governmental organizations established by the Council for the functional commissions, of Part V of resolution 288 (X) of 27 February 1950, and of the discussions on this subject during the thirteenth session of the Council;"

The recommendation was based upon a draft resolution contained in a report of the Council's Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

It will be recalled that the Economic Commission for Latin America had already considered the matter at its fourth session, and the Commission decided

"to wait the outcome of the Council's consideration before deciding upon its permanent rules of procedure in this respect," and further decided to

"apply the provisions of resolutions 288 and 289 (X) of the Economic and Social Council, and in particular those provisions which pertained to arrangements for consultations between non-governmental organizations and functional commissions, and further that any provision in the existing rules of procedure of the Commission which is inconsistent with resolutions 288 and 289 (X) shall be superseded".

This matter was referred to the Committee of the Whole, meeting in Santiago from 11 - 14 February 1952 and who;

"decided to postpone until the fifth session any action on changes in the Rules of Procedure relating to non-governmental organizations."

/Although therefore

Although therefore the delay in amending the Rules of Procedure in this respect has been due to the lapse of time between the meetings of the Fourth Session in June 1951 and the Fifth Session in April 1953, it is now felt that the Commission should effect the changes in the Rules of Procedure regarding non-governmental organizations in order to standardize such Rules with those of the Council and the other two regional commissions.

Appendix I contains the provisions of Part V of resolution 288 (X) of the Economic and Social Council dealing with relations of consultations between functional commissions and non-governmental organizations, as well as the provisions of Part IX of this resolution on consultation with the Secretariat.

In order to facilitate consideration of this subject, the Executive Secretary has prepared a draft of the rules which incorporate substantially the provisions found in resolution 288 (X), part V. This draft is reproduced in Appendix II, which also contains the text of the present rules of procedure dealing with relations with non-governmental organizations. It will be noted that the major differences between the two sets of provisions are found in additional conditions included in the draft rules with respect to the proposal of items by non-governmental organizations for the provisional agenda; circulation of written statements by such organizations; and consultations with non-governmental organizations on the register.

APPENDIX I

Resolution 288 (X) - Review of Consultative Arrangements with Non-Governmental Organizations (Resolutions of 27 February 1950)

A

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

TAKES NOTE of the report of the Secretary-General and of the report of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations presented in accordance with Council resolution 214 E (VIII).

B

ARRANGEMENTS FOR CONSULTATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

HAVING REGARD to Article 71 of the Charter,

RECOGNIZING that the peoples of the United Nations have a basic and continuing interest in the policies and operations of the United Nations and that the arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations provide an important means of ensuring that this interest may be fulfilled,

CONSIDERING that consultations between the Council and its subsidiary organs and the non-governmental organizations should be developed to the fullest practicable extent,

APPROVES the following revised arrangements for consultation:

/Part V

## Part V

### CONSULTATION WITH COMMISSIONS

#### Provisional Agenda

25. The provisional agenda of sessions of commissions or sub-commissions shall be communicated to organizations in categories A and B and on the register at the same time as to Members of the United Nations.

26. Organizations in category A may propose items for the provisional agenda of commissions subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Secretary-General at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments the Secretary-General may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not later than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

#### Attendance at Meetings

27. Organizations in categories A and B and organizations on the register may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of commissions and sub-commissions of the Council.

#### Written Statements

28. Written statements relevant to the work of the commission or sub-commission may be submitted by organizations in categories A and B on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Secretary-General to the Members of the United Nations except those statements which have become obsolete, e.g., those dealing with matters already disposed of.

/29. The following

29. The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(a) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages.

(b) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Secretary-General and the organization before circulation.

(c) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Secretary-General may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form.

(d) A written statement submitted by an organization in category A or B will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary which will be circulated or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the two working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the commission or sub-commission.

(e) The Secretary-General may invite organizations on the register to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) above shall apply to such statements.

(f) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Secretary-General in the working languages and, upon the request of a member of the commission or the sub-commission, in any of the official languages.

#### Hearings

30. (a) The commission or sub-commission may consult with organizations in categories A or B either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the invitation of the commission or sub-commission or on the request of the organization.

(b) On the recommendation of the Secretary-General and at the request of the commission or sub-commission, organizations on the register may also be heard by the commission or sub-commission.

/Special Studies

Special Studies

31. Subject to the relevant rules of procedure on financial implications a commission may recommend that an organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the commission. The limitations of Part V, paragraph 29 (d) shall not apply in this case.

Part IX

CONSULTATION WITH THE SECRETARIAT

37. The Secretariat should be so organized as to enable it to carry out the consultative arrangements as set forth in this statute.

38. All organizations in consultative relationship shall be able to consult with officers of the appropriate sections of the Secretariat of the United Nations on matters in which there is a mutual interest or a mutual concern. Such consultation shall be upon the request of the non-governmental organization or upon the request of the Secretary-General.

39. The Secretary-General may request organizations in categories A and B and on the register to carry out specific studies or prepare specific papers, subject to the relevant financial regulations.

40. The Secretary-General shall be authorized, within the means at his disposal, to offer to non-governmental organizations in consultative relationship facilities which include:

(a) Prompt and efficient distribution of such documents of the Council and its subsidiary bodies as shall in the judgment of the Secretary-General be appropriate;

(b) Access to the Press documentation service at the United Nations headquarters;

(c) Arrangement of informal discussions on matters of special interest to groups of organizations;

/(d) Use of

(d) Use of the libraries of the United Nations;

(e) Provision of accommodation for conferences or smaller meetings of consultative organizations on the work of the Economic and Social Council;

(f) Appropriate seating arrangements and facilities for obtaining documents during public meetings of the General Assembly dealing with matters in the economic and social fields.



## APPENDIX II

### Present and Proposed Rules Regarding Relations with Non-Governmental Organizations

(Note: Rules not mentioned are unchanged)

#### Present Rules

##### Rule 8

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

- (g) items proposed by non-governmental organizations in category A;

##### Rule 9

Before the Executive Secretary places an item proposed by a specialized agency, or by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council, or a non-governmental organization in Category A on the provisional agenda, he shall carry out with the agency or organization concerned such preliminary consultations as may be necessary.

##### Rule 38

Decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of the members present and voting, except as provided in the third paragraph of rule 10 of these rules of procedure.

##### Rule 49

Non-governmental organizations in Categories A, B and C may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission. Non-governmental organizations in Category A may circulate to the members of the Commission written statements and suggestions on matters within their competence. Non-governmental organizations in Categories B and C may submit such statements and suggestions to the Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary will prepare and distribute at each session of the Commission a list of such communications received, briefly indicating the substance of each of them. On the request of any Member of the Commission the Executive Secretary will reproduce in full and distribute any such communication.

/Rule 50

Rule 50

The Commission may at its discretion consult with non-governmental organizations in Categories A, B and C on matters in which the Commission regards these organizations as having special competence or knowledge. Such consultations may be arranged on the invitation of the Commission or on the request of the organization. In the case of non-governmental organizations in Categories B and C consultations might be effected either directly or through ad hoc Committees.

Proposed RulesRule 8

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

(g) items proposed by non-governmental organizations in category A, subject to the provisions of rule 9A; and ...

Rule 9

Before the Executive Secretary places an item proposed by a specialized agency, or by the Inter-American Economic and Social Council on the provisional agenda, he shall carry out with the agency or organization concerned such preliminary consultations as may be necessary.

Rule 9A (new rule)

Organizations in category A may propose items for the provisional agenda of commissions subject to the following conditions:

(a) An organization which intends to propose such an item shall inform the Executive Secretary at least sixty-three days before the commencement of the session and before formally proposing an item shall give due consideration to any comments the Executive Secretary may make;

(b) The proposal shall be formally submitted with the relevant basic documentation not later than forty-nine days before the commencement of the session. The item shall be included in the agenda of the commission if it is adopted by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

Rule 38

Decisions of the Commission shall be made by a majority of those present and voting, except as provided in rule 9A and the third paragraph of rule 10 of these rules of procedure.

/Rule 49

Rule 49

(a) Non-governmental organizations in categories A and B and on the register may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Commission.

(b) Written statements relevant to the work of the commission or its subsidiary bodies may be submitted by organizations in categories A and B on subjects for which these organizations have a special competence. Such statements shall be circulated by the Executive Secretary to the Members of the Commission except those statements which have become obsolete, e.g., those dealing with matters already disposed of.

(c) The following conditions shall be observed regarding the submission and circulation of such written statements:

(i) The written statement shall be submitted in one of the official languages of the Commission.

(ii) It shall be submitted in sufficient time for appropriate consultation to take place between the Executive Secretary and the organization before circulation.

(iii) The organization shall give due consideration to any comments which the Executive Secretary may make in the course of such consultation before transmitting the statement in final form.

(iv) A written statement submitted by an organization in category A or B will be circulated in full if it does not exceed 2,000 words. Where a statement is in excess of 2,000 words, the organization shall submit a summary which will be circulated or shall supply sufficient copies of the full text in the two working languages for distribution. A statement will also be circulated in full, however, upon the specific request of the Commission.

(v) The Executive Secretary may invite organizations on the register to submit written statements. The provisions of paragraphs (i), (iii) and (iv) above shall apply to such statements.

(vi) A written statement or summary, as the case may be, will be circulated by the Executive Secretary in the working languages of the Commission.

Rule 50

(a) The Commission may consult with organizations in categories A or B either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose. In all cases, such consultations may be arranged on the invitation of the Commission or on the request of the organization. On the recommendation of the Executive Secretary and at the request of the Commission, organizations on the register may also be heard by the Commission.

(b) Subject to the relevant rules of procedure on financial implications the Commission may recommend that an organization which has special competence in a particular field should undertake specific studies or investigations or prepare specific papers for the Commission. The limitations of rule 49, paragraph (c) (iv) shall not apply in this case.