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Agenda item 29

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS

Report of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

1. Pursuant to Council resolution 1099 (XL), the Committee met to carry out the request of the Council that it review its recommendations contained in an earlier report of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/4136). The above-mentioned resolution had increased the membership of the Committee from seven to thirteen in order to give it a more representative geographical distribution. Meetings were held at Headquarters on 20 and 21 April, on 19 May and on 3 June 1966. The records of these meetings are contained in documents E/C.2/SR.208 and Add.1; 209; 210; 211 and 212. The list of representatives attending is contained in annex I.
2. The Committee elected Salvador P. Lopez (Philippines) Chairman and Per-Olof V. Forshell (Sweden) Vice-Chairman.
3. The Committee decided that its report to the Council should henceforth contain the substance of the discussions leading to its recommendations, instead of merely being confined to a draft resolution containing these recommendations.
4. The Committee agreed that, unless it decided otherwise, it would consider applications and reapplications for status in open meetings. Further, in accordance with amended rule 82 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Committee invited representatives of applying organizations to address the Committee and to reply to questions. The list of these organizations and their representatives is contained in annex II.
5. The Committee had before it documents E/C.2/R.52 and Add.1, E/4136 and Council resolution 1099 (XL).

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Applications and reapplications for consultative status

Applications for category A consultative status

6. All-African Trade Union Federation. On the proposal of the representative of Cameroon, supported by the other African members, the Committee agreed without vote to recommend deferment of this application for a year pending the conclusion of current negotiations concerning African trade unions.

Applications for reclassification to category A consultative status

7. United Towns Organization. Those who supported the application and the representative of the organization, noted that it was founded in 1957, that it now embraced some 1,000 towns and was playing a growing role in increasing co-operation among nations. It was non-political, did not interfere in domestic matters and was non-discriminatory. In addition to cultural exchanges, it arranged for exchanges to train industrial experts. Annual international conferences on technical municipal problems were held, as well as an annual youth rally. The organization encouraged tourism in, and arranged technical assistance for, developing countries.

8. Others were of the view that although the organization performed work which merited high praise, it could not be considered to have a basic interest in most of the activities of the Council. Under paragraph 16 of Council resolution 288 B (X), it was therefore not eligible for category A status.

9. The Committee recommended by 10 votes to none, with 3 abstentions, that the organization be granted category A status.

10. International Union of Local Authorities. Those who supported the application and the representative of the organization stated that since the United Towns Organization had been recommended for category A status, fairness required that the IULA also be granted it. The organization was formed in 1915 and had brought about 1,000 town twinnings. It had a large membership on a wide geographical basis. It ran training programmes for local officials and sent out expert advisers on request. It did not interfere domestically and organized useful conferences and seminars.

11. Others considered the organization to have a narrow field of interest and to be a political organization which supported the views of the Council of Europe with which it had consultative status. Others were not satisfied as to the explanation

given of its relationship with the Council of Europe and the European Conference of Local Authorities. One delegation stated that it had reasons to believe the organization condemned the single-party system which prevailed in some countries and that this would constitute an intervention in domestic matters.

12. The Committee recommended by 10 votes to none, with 3 abstentions, that the organization be granted category A status.

Reapplications for category B consultative status

13. International Association of Democratic Lawyers. Those opposed to granting status stated that the organization was politically inspired. This was proved by its expulsion of its Yugoslav affiliate, by its allegations against United Nations forces in Korea and by its partial criticism of United Nations activities in the Congo. It was stated that though a non-governmental organization in consultative status could criticise Governments, it was not free to level charges against the United Nations itself. The organization's protests against alleged violations of human rights were confined to allegations against countries other than those in eastern Europe. This was held to be an important point because when an organization of lawyers proclaimed itself to be a champion of human rights, the standards of objectivity and impartiality had to be set particularly high. One delegation stated that this organization was interfering in the internal affairs of States under the pretext of defending human rights.

14. Those favouring the reapplication and the representative of the organization pointed out that it was large and world-wide, and consisted entirely of professional lawyers. It brought together both bar associations and individual lawyers. It worked for equality of opportunity, peace, disarmament and the improved status of women, and held conferences on specific legal problems. It was specially interested in alleged violations of human rights and sent out committees of investigation. The representative of the organization stated that as a body of lawyers it was free to criticize whenever it chose. Those favouring the reapplication felt that the statements made by its opponents were not only groundless but completely irrelevant.

15. The Committee decided to recommend the rejection of this reapplication by 8 votes to 3, with 1 abstention.

16. Women's International Democratic Federation. Those in favour of the reapplication and the representative of the organization noted that the organization had a world-wide membership of 200 million women representing a variety of social, economic and political systems. The WIDF was a non-governmental organization in the true sense of the term and represented millions of women in all parts of the world. The question of granting consultative status to the WIDF was a matter of principle because the great majority of organizations enjoying such status represented only the Western point of view, whereas the Federation was representative of a broad range of countries having different political, economic and social systems. It was concerned with the maintenance of peace and with all phases of improvement of the status of women and the welfare of children. It united women on a totally non-discriminatory basis. It co-operated with UNICEF and other programmes of the United Nations family, enjoyed category C consultative status with UNESCO, and collaborated with the ILO, FAO and WHO.

17. Those opposing the reapplication considered the organization to be political and biased, as evidenced by its expulsion of its Yugoslav affiliate, its charges of atrocities by United Nations troops in Korea and its charges against United Nations personnel in the Congo. The expulsion of its Yugoslav affiliate was of significance because it showed that the WIDF, although claiming to be a world-wide organization, actually represented a certain brand of communism. It was stated that though a non-governmental organization in consultative status could criticize Governments it was not free to level charges against the United Nations itself. Moreover, the WIDF had once enjoyed category B status with the Economic and Social Council and UNESCO, but had been deprived of it in the early 1950's and no intergovernmental body had seen fit to recommend restoration of that category B status. Although it might well be true that there was a woman from a certain country among the members of the Federation's Bureau, this did not mean that the organization was broadly representative of the women in that country.

18. The Committee decided, by 4 votes to 4, with 5 abstentions, not to recommend the granting of this reapplication.

Applications for category B consultative status

19. European Insurance Committee. The Committee decided to recommend this request by 11 votes to none, with 2 abstentions. The Committee noted it had recommended positive action at a previous session and the application was not therefore discussed in substance.
20. Community Development Foundation Inc. The Committee agreed to recommend this application without voting and without substantive discussion. One delegation stated that it supported the Committee's previous recommendation for Register status and that had a vote concerning the granting of category B status been taken it would have abstained.
21. International Association of Ports and Harbours. The representative of the organization stated that it consists of port organizations of a governmental type having jurisdiction or operating control over ports in forty-seven countries. Within its field it is a self-help organization actively assisting developing countries in all aspects of port operations.
22. The Committee decided to recommend this application by 10 votes to none, with 2 abstentions. One delegation proposed Register status, pointing out that this was a purely technical organization, which did not have consultative status with any specialized agency.
23. Federation of Commonwealth Chambers of Commerce. Without substantive discussion the Committee decided to recommend this application by 10 votes to none, with 2 abstentions. One delegation stated that it had abstained because of lack of information concerning the organization, which had not sent a representative.
24. Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration. Those favouring this application and the representative of the organization stated that it was incorporated under Philippine law and consisted of States, groups, institutions and individuals. Since it was not established by an intergovernmental agreement, it was non-governmental as defined by Council resolution 288 B (X). It was autonomous and not a regional branch of any wider organization. It was actively engaged in the training of public administrators in an area where they were badly needed.

25. One representative stated that the organization was intergovernmental and should not be treated as a non-governmental organization. In the absence of adequate information he would have preferred to postpone action.
26. The Committee decided to recommend this application by 11 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.
27. International Union of Building Societies and Savings Associations. Those in favour of this application and the representative of the organization stated that it consisted of 450 associations representing the mutual non-profit savings and home-ownership movement in some thirty-four countries. Its object was the mobilization of local capital to finance home ownership. It was concerned with assisting in the creation of such societies in developing countries which were suffering from housing shortages.
28. Two representatives stated that in their view the membership and purposes of the organization were narrow, that it could bring little assistance to the Council and might better be placed on the Register.
29. The Committee decided to recommend this application by 10 votes to none with 2 abstentions.

Application for Register status

30. International Association for the Promotion and Protection of Private Foreign Investments. Those favouring this application and the representative of the organization stated that it had members in fifteen developed countries and correspondents in seventeen developing countries. It supported all measures designed to increase the flow of private foreign capital by establishing a satisfactory climate of security. Its activities were consistent with the work of the Council in this field. The Association was aware of the rights of sovereign Governments. Its object was to further conditions favourable to attracting capital to developing countries, and for the foreseeable future private sources would have to be relied on for most of the external investment capital needed in these countries.
31. The question was raised as to whether the Association was not a pressure group for private investors rather than a non-profit organization. Membership consisted entirely of those who had invested capital in developing countries, while recipient

countries were merely correspondents. Further, it was questioned whether the organization did not intervene in domestic matters.

32. The Committee decided to recommend this application by 10 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

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33. At its 212th meeting the Committee had completed taking the decisions set forth above and proceeded to consider the draft resolution before it containing its recommendations to the Council (E/C.2/L.26). A delegation requested a separate vote on the parts of the draft resolution under rule 64 of the rules of procedure. The Chairman stated that the draft resolution was not a resolution of the Committee, but a text for consideration by the Council containing the recommendations of the Committee which had already been decided upon, and that each of these was already voted in the report. A vote by parts had in effect already taken place and the Chairman feared that a further vote might lead to contradictions with the decisions recorded above. He asked the Committee to vote on his ruling and it was upheld by 8 votes to 2, with no abstentions. The draft resolution contained in paragraph 35 below of this report was then approved by 8 votes to 2, with no abstentions. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics requested that his explanation of vote be included in this report. The Chairman replied that delegations which wished to have their explanation of vote included should submit these to him. One explanation of vote was submitted which appears as paragraph 34 below. The Committee then adopted its report unanimously.

34. The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics submitted the following:^{1/}

(a) In explaining its vote against the draft resolution, the USSR delegation said it wished to draw attention to a flagrant violation of rule 64 of the rules of procedure of the Council, as a result of which two delegations had been deprived of an opportunity to state their position on various parts of the resolution. The USSR delegation had strongly supported the granting of category A status to the United Towns Organization and had not opposed deferring for one year

^{1/} Original text in Russian.

the application for category A status of the All-African Trade Union Federation, as requested by the African delegations, but it had been unable to support the requests of a number of other, narrow organizations for an undeservedly high status.

(b) The most important, fundamental question before the Committee had been that of granting category B status to two very large international organizations of a universal character: the Women's International Democratic Federation and the International Association of Democratic Lawyers. It was an objective necessity to grant the requests of those organizations. They satisfied all the requirements for consultative status, particularly since they represented public opinion in countries with different socio-economic and political systems. As the Committee was aware, virtually all the 360 non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council had heretofore been narrow organizations which presented the position of only the Western countries and propagated capitalist ideology. Many of them openly engaged in activities hostile to the socialist and developing countries. The USSR delegation reserved the right to revert in the Economic and Social Council to the question of reconsidering the Committee's unlawful decision.

35. The Committee recommends the following draft resolution for the consideration of the Council:

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the report of its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/4204),

1. Decides to defer for one year consideration of the request of the All-African Trade Union Federation for category A consultative status;

2. Decides to grant the requests of the following organizations for reclassification from category B to category A consultative status:

International Union of Local Authorities (IULA),

United Towns Organization (UTO);

3. Decides to grant the request for category B consultative status of the following organizations:

Community Development Foundation, Inc.,

Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA),

European Insurance Committee,

International Union of Building Societies and Savings Associations,

The Federation of Commonwealth Chambers of Commerce,

The International Association of Ports and Harbours;

4. Decides to place the following organization on the Register of the Secretary-General:

International Association for the Promotion and Protection of Private Foreign Investments (APPI);

5. Decides not to grant the requests of the following organizations for category B consultative status:

International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL),
Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF).

Annex I

Chairman: Mr. S. Lopez - Philippines
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Forshell - Sweden
Members: Mr. Beleoken - Cameroon
Mr. Handl - Czechoslovakia
Mr. Bouillet - France
Mr. Mishra)
Mr. Sajjad) - India
Mr. Tabiti - Morocco
Mr. Rios - Panama
Mr. Nasinovsky - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
Mr. Taylor - United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland
Mr. Waldron-Ramsey - United Republic of Tanzania
Mr. Blau)
Mr. Elmendorf) - United States of America
Miss C. Lopez - Venezuela

Annex II

Representatives of non-governmental organizations

Community Development Foundation, Inc. - Mrs. Ruth Levine
Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration
(EROPA) - Mr. Charles Ascher
International Association for the Promotion and Protection of
Private Foreign Investments (APPI) - Mr. F.O. Canfield
International Association of Democratic Lawyers - Mr. Max Dean
International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH) - Mr. Lyle King
International Union of Building Societies and Savings
Associations - Mr. Kenneth G. Heisler
International Union of Local Authorities - Mr. Charles Ascher
United Towns Organization - Mr. René Monory
Women's International Democratic Federation - Mrs. Jasovich-Pantaleon