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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
OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft decisions and recommendations calling
for action by the 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 II

Africa Union of Architects

American Association of Retired Persons

Andean Commission of Jurists

Association de Coopération Internationale au Développement (ACIAD)/
Organisation pour la Recherche Appliquée au Développement (ORAD)

CARE International

Centre of Economic and Social Studies of the Third World

Change

Food and Disarmament International

Foundation for the Rights of the Family (PRODEFA) - International
Secretariat

Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development

International Association against Torture (AICT)

International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE)

International Bureau of Economy and Work

International Cartographic Association

International Commission of Health Professionals for Health and Human
Rights

International Federation Terre des Hommes
International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee
International Society of Postmasters
International Study Center for Children and Families
International Tunnelling Association
Latin American Human Rights Association
Liberty International
Mediterranean Women's Studies Institute
National Council of German Women's Organizations - Federal Union of
Women's Organizations and Women's Groups of General Associations, e.V.
Private Agencies Collaborating Together, Inc.
Save the Children Alliance
Servicio, Paz y Justicia en América Latina
Trickle Up Program
Women's World Banking
World Association of Children's Friends (AMADE)
World Organization of Building Officials
World Safety Organization
World Society of Victimology (WSV)

Roster

Aliran Kesedaran Negara: National Consciousness Movement
Centre for Development and Population Activities
Daytop Village Foundation, Inc.
English-Speaking Union International Council, The
European Federation for Intercultural Learning
Fe y Alegría
Fédération internationale libre des déportés et internes de la résistance
Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
Intermediate Technology Development Group, Ltd.
International Right to Life Federation
International Union of Building Centres
National Association of Victims Support Schemes
National Congress of Neighborhood Women

National Council for International Health (NCIH)
National Council on the Aging, Inc. (NCOA)
Pan-African Islamic Society for Agro Cultural Development
Project Orbis, Inc.
Regional Council on Human Rights in Asia
World Federation of Therapeutic Communities, Inc. (WFTC)
World Women Parliamentarians for Peace (WWPP)

(b) To reclassify one organization from category II to category I and nine organizations from the Roster to category II, as follows:

Category I

Third World Foundation

Category II

Africa Club
Data for Development (DFD)
International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty
International Centre of Sociological Penal and Penitentiary Research and Studies
International New Towns Association
International Road Safety
Medical Women's International Association
World African Chamber of Commerce
World Future Studies Federation

DRAFT DECISION II

Provisional agenda and documentation for the session
of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
to be held in 1989

The Economic and Social Council approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be held in 1989 set out below.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE SESSION
OF THE COMMITTEE ON NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
TO BE HELD IN 1989

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:
 - (a) Applications for consultative status deferred from the 1987 session of the Committee;
 - (b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification.

Documentation

Deferred applications for consultative status and deferred requests for reclassification: memorandum by the Secretary-General

New applications for consultative status: memorandum by the Secretary-General

New requests for reclassification: memorandum by the Secretary-General

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

Documentation

Quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status, categories I and II, with the Economic and Social Council: report prepared by the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV)

5. Review of future activities.

Documentation

Information on non-governmental organizations in consultative status, including those on the Roster: study by the Secretary-General

6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the session of the Committee to be held in 1991.
7. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

2. Action by the Council is required concerning the following recommendations of the Committee:

(a) Scheduling of the sessions of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. The Committee recommends to the Council that the Committee's sessions in 1989 and subsequent years should be so scheduled that they do not coincide with the sessions of other subsidiary bodies of the Council, such as the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Human Rights and the Statistical Commission (see sect. IV below);

(b) Role of local self-government in development: a world-wide declaration on local self-government. The Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council that it consider a question entitled "Role of local self-government in development: a world-wide declaration on local self-government", as proposed by the International Union of Local Authorities, a non-governmental organization in category I (see E/C.2/1987/3), at its first regular session of 1987 under the item of the agenda entitled "Public administration and finance" (see sect. V below).

B. Matters brought to the attention of the Council

3. The attention of the Council is drawn to the conclusions submitted by the Committee to the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields, in accordance with Council decision 1987/112 (see para. 58 below).

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

4. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 475th to 480th and 484th to 489th meetings, from 17 to 19 and 23 to 26 February 1987. It had before it memoranda by the Secretary-General containing:

(a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations, the further consideration of which had been deferred by the Committee at its 1985 session (E/C.2/R.65 and Add.1);

(b) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations that the Committee had been unable to consider at its 1985 session, owing to constraints of time (E/C.2/R.66);

(c) New applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations (E/C.2/R.67 and Add.1-3);

(d) New requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations (E/C.2/R.68).

A. Applications for consultative status deferred from the 1985 session of the Committee

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

Category II

Andean Commission of Jurists 1/

Change 1/

Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development 2/

International Association against Torture (AICT) 1/

International Tunnelling Association 1/

Latin American Human Rights Association 1/

Roster

Centre for Development and Population Activities 2/

European Federation for Intercultural Learning 3/

Fédération internationale libre des déportés et internes de la résistance 1/

National Association of Victims Support Schemes 1/

Project Orbis, Inc. 1/

6. The Committee decided to defer further consideration of the applications of the following organizations until its session in 1989: 4/

American Management Association/International (AMA/I) 2/

Arab Organization for Human Rights 2/

Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP) 1/

European Action in Disability (EMV) 1/

Federation of Arab News Agencies (FANA) 1/

1/ The organization had applied for category II.

2/ The organization had applied for category I.

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

4/ The Committee decided that, for all applications deferred, the organizations concerned should submit a new application.

Federation of Islamic Associations in the United States and Canada 1/
Giants International 3/

International Human Rights Law Group 1/

International Real Estate Institute 2/

Lawyers Committee for International Human Rights 3/

7. The Committee decided to invite the following organization to apply for consultative status with the World Health Organization:

International Federation of Catholic Pharmacists 1/

8. The Committee decided to request the Secretary-General to invite the following organization to resubmit its application, and to consider that application when received:

Africa Genetics Association 3/

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

Club of Life 2/

Society of American Travel Writers 1/

B. Requests for reclassification deferred from the
1985 session of the Committee

10. The Committee decided to recommend the Economic and Social Council to reclassify four organizations from the Roster to category II, as follows:

Category II

Africa Club 5/

Data for Development (DFD) 6/

International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty 6/

International Road Safety 6/

5/ The organization had requested reclassification from the Roster to category I.

6/ The organization had requested reclassification from the Roster to category II.

11. The Committee decided that the following organizations should maintain their current status:

International Association of Islamic Banks 6/
Islamic Call Society 5/
Minority Rights Group 6/

C. New applications for consultative status

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

Category II

Africa Union of Architects 1/
American Association of Retired Persons 1/
Association de Coopération Internationale au Développement (ACIAD)/
Organisation pour la Recherche Appliquée au Développement (ORAD) 1/
CARE International 2/, 7/
Centre of Economic and Social Studies of the Third World 2/
Food and Disarmament International 1/
Foundation for the Rights of the Family (PRODEFA) - International
Secretariat 1/
International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) 1/
International Bureau of Economy and Work 1/
International Cartographic Association 1/
International Commission of Health Professionals for Health and
Human Rights 1/
International Federation Terre des Hommes 1/
International Motor Vehicle Inspection Committee 1/
International Society of Postmasters 1/
International Study Center for Children and Families 1/
Liberty International 1/

7/ The Committee invited the organization to consult its affiliates in order to appoint a single non-governmental organization to represent it in consultative status with the Council; the Committee, at its session in 1989, would re-examine the status of the organization in the light of the results of those consultations.

/...

Mediterranean Women's Studies Institute 1/
National Council of German Women's Organizations - Federal Union of Women's
Organizations and Women's Groups of General Associations, e.V. 1/
Private Agencies Collaborating Together, Inc. 1/
Save the Children Alliance 1/, 7/
Servicio, Paz y Justicia en América Latina 1/
Trickle Up Program 1/
Women's World Banking 1/
World Association of Children's Friends (AMADE) 1/
World Organization of Building Officials 1/
World Safety Organization 1/
World Society of Victimology (WSV) 1/

Roster

Aliran Kesedaran Negara: National Consciousness Movement 3/
Daytop Village Foundation, Inc. 1/
English-Speaking Union International Council, The 1/
Fe y Alegría 3/
Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec) 3/
Intermediate Technology Development Group, Ltd. 1/
International Right to Life Federation 1/
International Union of Building Centres 3/
National Congress of Neighborhood Women 3/
National Council for International Health (NCIH) 1/
National Council on the Aging, Inc. (NCOA) 1/
Pan-African Islamic Society for Agro Cultural Development 1/
Regional Council on Human Rights in Asia 3/
World Federation of Therapeutic Communities, Inc. (WFTC) 1/
World Women Parliamentarians for Peace (WWPP) 2/

13. The Committee suggested that the following organization consider applying for consultative status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization:

Institute for Planetary Synthesis 1/

14. The Committee decided to defer further consideration of the application of the following organization to its session in 1989 and to consider that application as a matter of priority: 4/

Commission for the Defense of Human Rights in Central America 1/

15. The Committee also decided to defer further consideration of the applications of the following organizations to its session in 1989: 4/

Assyrian Universal Alliance (AUA) 1/

Christian Solidarity International (CSI) 1/

Global Education Associates 2/

International Personnel Management Association (IPMA) 1/

World Hindu Organization 2/

16. The Committee decided to reject the applications of the following organizations:

National Women's Civic Association, A.C. 3/

Sikh Commonwealth 2/

17. The Committee considered that the unanimous rejection of the application of the Sikh Commonwealth reflected the Committee's strong belief that the goals and objectives of that organization were incompatible with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

D. New requests for reclassification

18. The Committee decided to recommend the Economic and Social Council to reclassify one organization from category II to category I and five organizations from the Roster to category II, as follows:

Category I

Third World Foundation 8/

Category II

International Centre of Sociological Penal and Penitentiary Research and Studies 6/

8/ The organization had requested reclassification from category II to category I.

International New Towns Association 6/
Medical Women's International Association 6/
World African Chamber of Commerce 5/
World Future Studies Federation 6/

19. The Committee decided to maintain the status of the following organization:

African Institute of Private International Law 8/

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

20. The Committee considered item 4 of its agenda at its 481st to 483rd and 490th meetings, on 20, 23 and 26 February 1987. It had before it the reports prepared by the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), containing the quadrennial reports on the activities of 218 non-governmental organizations in consultative status, categories I and II, with the Economic and Social Council for the periods 1980-1984 (E/C.2/1985/2 and Add.1 and 2) and 1981-1985 (E/C.2/1987/2 and Add.1-3).

21. In accordance with Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), the Committee requested the following organizations, which had failed to submit reports, to provide them within three months:

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Chamber of Commerce of the United States of America
Federation for the Respect of Man and Humanity
Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, Inc.
International Centre for Industry and the Environment
International Co-ordinating Committee of Financial Analysts' Associations
International Federation of Beekeepers' Associations
International Society for Criminology
International Union of Lawyers
Pan-American Federation of Engineering Societies
Société internationale de prophylaxie criminelle
Vienna Institute for Development

22. The Committee decided to review the reports of the above-mentioned organizations at its session in 1989 and agreed that, in accordance with past practice those organizations that failed to submit a report within the specified time would automatically have their status with the Council withdrawn.

23. The Committee decided that the Pan-African Women's Organization, which had also failed to submit a report, should be requested to do so for the Committee's consideration in 1989.

24. The Committee also decided to defer until its session in 1989 consideration of the reports of the following organizations and requested additional information regarding the activities related to the work of the Economic and Social Council:

Association for Childhood Education International
International Centre for Local Credit
International Christian Union of Business Executives
International Federation of Landscape Architects
International Institute of Administrative Sciences
International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations
Studies and Expansion Society - International Scientific Association (SEC)
Union of International Fairs

25. In undertaking its review and in taking note of the remaining reports, members of the Committee made observations and expressed reservations concerning the reports of a number of organizations, as set out below.

26. While not objecting to the Committee's taking note of the report of Amnesty International, the representative of Bulgaria, joined by the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, expressed serious reservations about the veracity of allegations often uncritically made by Amnesty International and voiced concern about the clear tendency of Amnesty International often to ignore even easily available information when it was likely to challenge or contradict such allegations.

27. While joining with the Committee in the decision to take note of the report of the International Union of Building Societies and Savings Associations, the representative of Bulgaria expressed serious concern regarding the seminar organized by that organization in South Africa and the manner in which it had answered a letter inquiring about its position on apartheid.

28. Recalling the report of the Committee on its special session in 1984 (see E/1984/29, para. 75), several delegations reiterated the appeal to the Inter-American Press Association to conform to the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the Economic and Social Council.

29. The same delegations drew the Committee's attention to the grave concerns expressed about the activities of that organization: it had continued its interference in the internal affairs of Member States and, at the same time, had kept up its slanderous campaign against the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the new world information and communication order.

30. The delegation of Costa Rica stated that its Government had been criticized by the Inter-American Press Association, because it had enacted legislation on professional accreditation for journalists. In fact the legislation in question applied to all professions, and was intended to promote greater efficiency and professionalism. Nevertheless, Costa Rica did not agree with the view expressed that measures should be taken against the Association. Costa Rica, as a member of the Committee on Information, had recognized the importance of adopting a new world information and communication order that was based on the free flow of information and guided by the provisions of article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

31. The delegation of Colombia supported that position, stating that criticism of Member States should not alone constitute a reason for withdrawing the consultative status of an organization such as the Inter-American Press Association. The representative stressed the importance of the free flow of information as a basic feature of the new information order.

32. The representative of the United States of America noted the broad scale of membership of the Inter-American Press Association. He also pointed to the valuable work that it was doing in highlighting limitations on freedom of the press and suggested that the reservations expressed by some delegations were more of a reflection of their desire to see the work of the organization stifled.

33. The representative of Cyprus stated that her Government had followed the activities of the Muslim World League for a number of years. The Government of Cyprus was seriously concerned about certain positions taken by that organization, specifically on the question of Cyprus, which were in violation of the provisions of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), in particular paragraph 36 (b) thereof. The twenty-seventh Conference of the Constituent Assembly of the League, which had met in early 1986, had adopted a resolution on Cyprus in which, inter alia, the Muslim World League had appealed to all Muslim countries to recognize the so-called Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and activate their commercial relations with it. The Government of Cyprus considered the resolution of the League utterly unacceptable, since it was in direct violation of Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984).

34. The representative of Cyprus subsequently expressed appreciation for the statement made in the Committee by the representative of the Muslim World League to the effect that the above concerns had been conveyed to the Secretary-General of the Muslim World League, who had said that the resolution had been "frozen" and that the League hoped that that action would resolve the issue. The League had also indicated its respect for resolutions of the United Nations. The representative of Cyprus expressed appreciation for the understanding shown by the League of the serious concern of the Government of Cyprus; she expressed the hope that such co-operation would be maintained and that the activities of the League would conform to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, especially with regard to respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus.

35. It was regrettable that the delegation of Cyprus was forced to bring the issue of the activities of the World Muslim Congress to the attention of the Committee once again, because overall it appreciated the work of that organization and in particular, its consistent support for the Palestinian cause. However, the Congress had been involved in a number of new activities which were in violation of the understanding reached during the 1985 session. The Secretary-General of the World Muslim Congress had sent a congratulatory message to Mr. Rauf Denktash on the occasion of his "great victory". The "victory" was the illegal so-called presidential elections held in the occupied areas, in violation of Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984). The Secretary-General of the Congress, had paid an official visit to the occupied areas of Cyprus on 4 and 5 November 1986. He had entered the occupied areas through the closed and illegal ports of entry of Cyprus in violation of the domestic laws of Cyprus and the norms and principles of international law.

36. The representative of Cyprus expressed regret that the informal consultations conducted with the World Muslim Congress during the meetings of the Committee had not produced results. Her delegation maintained its strong concerns and reservations with regard to the position and activities of the organization concerning Cyprus, which it considered contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and the Security Council resolutions, and which violated the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). The representative of Cyprus advised the Committee that her delegation would be in a position to take note of the report of the World Muslim Congress if the Committee were to appeal to non-governmental organizations to respect the territorial integrity of States Members of the United Nations.

37. The representative of Nicaragua informed the Committee that the World Council of Indigenous Peoples had violated basic principles of the Charter of the United Nations by the illegal entry into her country of the Council's President in January 1986. The principles were those of sovereignty and inviolability of borders, among others. She stated that members of the Council, and its President in particular, had visited Nicaragua on at least six occasions and had been given free access to the indigenous communities on the Atlantic coast and had met with high-level authorities of her country. A representative of the Council who had been contacted by the United Nations Secretariat had stated that on 8 March 1986, the Executive Council had approved a resolution in which it released the President of the Council from all duties and responsibilities, precisely because of the activities mentioned above, among others.

38. The representative of Pakistan drew the attention of the Committee to the statement he had made earlier in the week when the Committee was considering the application of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization for reclassification to consultative status, category I, and pointed out that the organization had not desisted from slandering certain States Members of the United Nations, which was in violation of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). The representative of Pakistan expressed strong reservations on the report of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization. The representative of Oman also expressed reservations on the report.

39. The representative of Sri Lanka stated that the report of the International Commission of Jurists took an approach that focused principally on the situations in small developing countries and neglected to take an overall approach - that was tantamount to abuse of the reporting procedure and gave a biased, over-simplified and selective interpretation of highly complex issues. The delegation of Sri Lanka expected an objective report from the organization.

40. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics stated that some activities of the International Federation for Human Rights were conducted in a way that was incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations and in violation of the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Member States. A one-sided approach characterized some of the undertakings of the Federation.

41. The representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics expressed serious concern regarding the activities of the Women's International Zionist Organization, the Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations and the International Council of Jewish Women, which engaged in politically motivated activities that were incompatible with their status as non-governmental organizations. He drew the attention of the Committee to the spreading of unfounded allegations, falsehoods and slander selectively directed against his country by the International Council of Jewish Women. Continuous efforts by that organization to libel and undermine major decisions of the United Nations raised doubts as to whether it deserved consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

42. Regarding the report of the International Union of Young Christian Democrats, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, joined by the representative of Bulgaria, pointed out the inadmissibility of the reference in the report to the so-called "outright violations of human rights" in Poland. Even more outrageous was an effort in the report to compare the situation in Poland with the practically Fascist régime in Chile. It was regrettable that such unbalanced allegations made them suspect the organization to be immature and its actions incompatible with its high consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. In that regard, the representative of the United States of America referred the representatives of Bulgaria and the Soviet Union to the views of the International Labour Organisation concerning the state of trade union freedom in Poland.

43. The representative of the United States of America stated that his delegation had consistently and actively supported the association and work of non-governmental organizations within the United Nations system, and would continue to do so in the future. It was the view of the United States that the energy, enthusiasm and creative ideas of individuals voluntarily joining together in non-governmental organizations to further the humane and beneficent goals that underlay the Charter of the United Nations made non-governmental organizations a unique and irreplaceable contributor to the United Nations.

44. The representative of the United States said that the support of his delegation for non-governmental organizations was tempered by equal concern for the integrity of the process by which organizations were selected to co-operate with

the United Nations as officially sanctioned non-governmental organizations. Irreparable damage could be done to the Committee, and ultimately to the non-governmental organization concept and the United Nations itself, if the Committee did not exercise its mandate in a decisive and responsible fashion in its review of applications. In that regard, the delegation of the United States had consistently raised principled objections when the evidence persuaded it that an organization being considered by the Committee received hidden funding from and was controlled by Governments that were using the organization to further their foreign policy and objectives. That government control caused such organizations to engage in persistent, flagrant, politically motivated attacks against Member States. The Governments supporting such organizations also attempted to influence public opinion by using the organizations as a mouthpiece. In the opinion of the delegation of the United States, that constituted a serious violation of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV), and it urged the Committee to withdraw consultative status from such organizations. In that regard, the delegation of the United States expressed concern about the activities of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization, the Christian Peace Conference, the International Union of Students, the Women's International Democratic Federation, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the World Federation of Democratic Youth and the World Federation of Trade Unions.

45. The Committee concluded its consideration of the item by appealing to all non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Member States and to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

IV. REVIEW OF FUTURE ACTIVITIES

46. The Committee considered item 5 of its agenda at its 489th and 490th meetings, on 26 February 1987. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing a statistical survey of the geographical distribution and primary areas of activity of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/C.2/1987/CRP.1).

47. Also under item 5, the Committee decided to consider its response to paragraph (i) of Economic and Social Council decision 1987/112, in which the Council had requested, inter alia, all its subsidiary bodies to submit to the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields, within 30 days of the conclusion of their forthcoming sessions, their views and proposals on achieving the objectives envisaged in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations 9/ regarding their functioning and that of their subsidiary machinery.

9/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49), para. 24.

48. In an introductory statement, the Under-Secretary-General for International Economic and Social Affairs referred to the unique function performed by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in helping the Economic and Social Council to establish links with such organizations. The interaction created by the consultative process related not only to the economic and social fields but to the other fields within the purview of the General Assembly and its various organs, which often called on the community of non-governmental organizations for co-operation. It was evident that current forms of co-operation between United Nations bodies and the community had gone beyond those envisaged in Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). He also referred to General Assembly resolution 32/197 on the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations system, in which the Assembly had requested the Council to examine and improve its consultative relationships with non-governmental organizations. In pursuance of recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts, the Council had established a special commission to carry out an in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields. He drew the attention of the Committee to the possibility of re-establishing the one-day consultation with representatives of non-governmental organizations, alternating between New York and Geneva, or the possibility of suggesting to the Council that it hold consultations with non-governmental organizations. He said that increased collaboration with non-governmental organizations could also include joint activities with the Secretariat, such as seminars and conferences, technical assistance and operational activities. Such collaboration could result in maximizing existing resources, the exchange of expertise and even savings to the Organization.

49. The first Vice-President of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council referred to the aims of the Conference, the nature of non-governmental organizations and their diversity, both in substance and activities, and drew the attention of the Committee to paragraphs 3 and 14 of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV). In addition, he called for the harmonization of procedures by United Nations bodies other than the Council in relating to non-governmental organizations, bearing in mind that important activities in the economic and social fields were currently within the purview of General Assembly bodies. An extension of the consultative relationship with those bodies would be welcomed. He also welcomed the proposal of the Secretary-General to reinstate consultations between non-governmental organizations and the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations.

50. In reviewing the note by the Secretariat containing a statistical survey of the geographical distribution and primary areas of activity of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/C.2/1987/CRP.1), members of the Committee expressed a number of views. Several delegations indicated that, using that document as a guide, the Committee should take into account the importance of equitable geographical representation of the non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, in particular the necessity for greater representation of organizations whose headquarters were located in developing and socialist countries and whose chief executive officers were from such countries. One representative said that the Committee should be flexible in considering applications from underrepresented regions, bearing in mind the criteria of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV).

51. One delegation noted the need to insist that non-governmental organizations with members in South Africa should provide clear and comprehensive explanations of their position on apartheid and of that of their South African members, since incomplete or scant information was the cause of many delays, questions and postponements of requests, simply because information that was needed had not been provided.

52. The Committee decided to request the Secretariat to undertake, within existing resources, a more extensive study of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council, including those on the Roster, which would contain information on the type of organization, the nature of its activities, its membership, countries in which it conducted activities, whether it was a national, regional or international organization and where it was based.

53. Two delegations suggested that the complete list of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council should be reviewed every six years in order to ascertain whether any should be eliminated. Decisions, however, should be based on authentic information from non-governmental organizations and from government sources. One delegation expressed concern about the growing number of non-governmental organizations being given consultative status and suggested that organizations with a common purpose should unite and designate one organization to represent them. The same delegation proposed that a working group of the Committee could examine the applications before each session, with a view to identifying groupings of organizations. A number of delegations, however, opposed setting up such a group, since the Committee itself was not large and, moreover, all delegations would wish to review the applications. One delegation said that the work of non-governmental organizations was so helpful to the United Nations that more of them should be accorded consultative status.

54. One delegation expressed the need for the Committee to determine more specific guidelines to assist the Secretariat in reducing the number of applications from non-governmental organizations at an earlier stage.

55. Two delegations suggested that, regarding the proposal of the Secretary-General, an annual informal consultation should be held by the Committee with non-governmental organizations. There appeared to be general concurrence with that proposal.

56. Many delegations pointed out that the dates of the Committee's sessions, both in the current year and in past years, had conflicted with those of other United Nations meetings that were also of concern to the representatives on the Committee. The Committee decided that it would recommend to the Economic and Social Council that the Committee's sessions in 1989 and subsequent years should not coincide with those of other subsidiary bodies of the Council, such as the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Human Rights and the Statistical Commission.

57. With respect to recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts, by which the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies were requested to conduct an in-depth study of the intergovernmental structure in the

economic and social fields, a number of suggestions were made. There was general agreement that the informal meeting held prior to the current session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had been extremely useful and that the practice should be continued. Several delegations stressed the need to receive the documentation earlier. One delegation suggested that it would be useful if the original applications of non-governmental organizations could be informally circulated to members of the Committee when received by the Secretariat. One delegation recommended prior informal consultations by the Committee in order to weed out marginal organizations; at that time also, Committee members could indicate any questions they might have about organizations so that representatives could respond more fully at the sessions of the Committee. One delegation stressed that it was important for the Secretariat to request non-governmental organizations applying for consultative status to provide copies of their publications. Several delegations were of the opinion that it would be useful to non-governmental organizations to have a time scheduled for the discussion of their applications in order to give them an opportunity to save on their expenses.

58. In response to the request of the Economic and Social Council contained in paragraph (i) of its decision 1987/112, the Committee, drawing on the guidelines provided in recommendation 8 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts, reviewed its functioning and decided to submit to the Special Commission of the Economic and Social Council on the In-depth Study of the United Nations Intergovernmental Structure and Functions in the Economic and Social Fields the following conclusions:

(a) The Committee considered that its agenda and functions were unique and did not duplicate the work of any other subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council;

(b) The Committee, having expressed its concern about its sessions overlapping with those of major subsidiary bodies of the Council decided to request that its future sessions be so scheduled that they would not coincide with the sessions of those bodies;

(c) The Committee was of the opinion that its support structure was adequate and responsive, and commended the Non-Governmental Organizations Unit of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs for its assistance;

(d) The Committee considered that, within the context of its discussion of its future work, it was constantly making efforts to improve its functioning;

(e) The Committee agreed that, since part IX of Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) defined in precise terms the area of responsibility of the Committee, its terms of reference need not be expanded;

(f) The Committee considered that meeting biennially and then submitting its report to the Economic and Social Council enabled it to complete the work required and was in line with the stated goals of reducing the number and length of reports, as well as with recommendation 2 of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts concerning the biennialization of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies of the Council.

V. ITEM PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF
THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

59. At its 490th meeting, on 26 February 1987, the Committee considered the note by the Secretary-General (E/C.2/1987/3) containing a proposal made by the International Union of Local Authorities, a non-governmental organization in category I, for the inclusion of an item entitled "Role of local self-government in development: a world-wide declaration on local self-government" in the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1987 of the Council.

60. At the same meeting, the Committee decided to recommend the Council to consider the above-mentioned question at its first regular session of 1987 under the item entitled "Public administration and finance".

VI. COMMEMORATION OF THE ADOPTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

61. The Committee, at its 491st meeting, on 27 February 1987, considered its response to Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/1, in which the Council invited its subsidiary organs to take appropriate measures to observe the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

62. The representative of Costa Rica stated that Council resolution 1987/1 provided all the elements for the commemoration of the event, particularly paragraph 3, in which the Council endorsed the appeal made by the General Assembly to all States that had not yet become parties to the International Covenants to do so, so that the Covenants would acquire genuine universality, and to consider acceding to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and making the declaration provided for in article 41 of the Covenant. A positive response to the appeal of the Assembly would be an important contribution to the strengthening of those instruments.

63. While stressing the importance of further development of international co-operation in the field of human rights in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and based on the International Covenants on Human Rights and other major United Nations human rights instruments, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics welcomed the interest of non-governmental organizations in the field of human rights and expressed the hope that those organizations would, in their activities, conform with the principles and norms of the Covenants and duly observe the twentieth anniversary of their adoption.

64. The same representative proposed that non-governmental organizations include, in their quadrennial reports, information on their activities in commemoration of the adoption of the Covenants, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on observances by non-governmental organizations, to be submitted to the Committee at its forthcoming session. There was no objection to that proposal.

65. The representative of Sweden, on behalf also of France and Greece, made a statement in which she commended the important work of non-governmental

organizations in the area of human rights and called upon Governments to recognize that human rights were a prerogative of the United Nations and that efforts to protect such rights did not constitute interference in the internal affairs of States.

VII. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE
TO BE HELD IN 1989

66. The Committee considered item 6 of its agenda at its 491st meeting, on 27 February 1987. It had before it a note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the session of the Committee to be held in 1989 (E/C.2/1987/CRP.2).

67. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its session to be held in 1989 and decided to submit it to the Economic and Social Council for review (see sect. I, draft decision II).

VIII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

68. At its 491st and 492nd meetings, on 27 February 1987, the Committee adopted the draft report on its current session (E/C.2/1987/L.1 and Add.1-5), as amended during the discussion.

IX. ORGANIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

69. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations met at United Nations Headquarters, from 17 to 27 February 1987. The Committee held 18 meetings (475th to 492nd meetings). The session was opened by Emilia Castro de Barish (Costa Rica), Chairman of the Committee in 1985.

B. Attendance

70. Representatives of all the States members of the Committee attended the session: Bulgaria, Burundi, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, France, Greece, Kenya, Malawi, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America.

71. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Algeria, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Germany, Federal Republic of, India, Iraq, Italy, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Syrian Arab Republic, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

72. The Holy See was represented by an observer.

73. The World Food Council was represented at the session.

74. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organisation, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

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

Category I. Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America, International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Chamber of Commerce, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Muslim World League, Soroptimist International, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Muslim Congress.

Category II. Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization, Arab Lawyers Union, Bahá'í International Community, Baptist World Alliance, Christian Peace Conference, Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation of Settlements and Neighbourhood Centres, International Federation of University Women, International League for Human Rights, International Touring Alliance, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Universal Federation of Travel Agents' Associations, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Association of Former United Nations Internes and Fellows.

Roster. International New Towns Association, Islamic Call Society, World Society of Victimology.

C. Election of officers

76. At its 475th and 477th meetings, on 17 and 18 February, the Committee elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Célestin Kabanda (Rwanda)

Vice-Chairman: Emil Y. Golemanov (Bulgaria)

Rapporteur: Erato Kozakou-Marcoullis (Cyprus)

D. Agenda

77. At its 475th meeting, on 17 February, the Committee considered the provisional agenda for the session (E/C.2/1987/1).

78. At the same meeting:

(a) The attention of the Committee was drawn to the note by the Secretary-General containing a proposal made by a non-governmental organization for the inclusion of an item in the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1987 of the Economic and Social Council (E/C.2/1987/3); 10/

(b) The Committee was informed of a proposal by the Secretary-General for the reinstatement by the Council of an annual informal consultation with non-governmental organizations; 11/

(c) The attention of the Committee was also drawn to the request made by the Economic and Social Council in paragraph (i) of its decision 1987/112 on the in-depth study of the United Nations intergovernmental structure and functions in the economic and social fields; 11/

(d) The attention of the Committee was further drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/1, in which the Council, inter alia, invited its subsidiary organs to take appropriate measures to observe the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the International Covenants on Human Rights. 12/

79. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the following agenda for the session:

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 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.

10/ For the Committee's consideration of the question, see sect. V above.

11/ For the Committee's consideration of the question, see sect. IV above.

12/ For the Committee's consideration of the question, see sect. VI above.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE AT ITS SESSION IN 1987

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/C.2/1985/2 and Add.1 and 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.2/1987/1	2	Provisional annotated agenda
E/C.2/1987/2 and Add.1-3	4	Quadrennial reports, 1981-1985, 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.2/1987/3	2	Item proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda for the second regular session of 1987 of the Economic and Social Council: note by the Secretary-General
E/C.2/1987/CRP.1	6	Draft provisional agenda for the session of the Committee to be held in 1989: note by the Secretariat
E/C.2/1987/CRP.2	5	Statistical survey of the geographical distribution and primary areas of activity of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: note by the Secretariat
E/C.2/1987/L.1 and Add.1-5	7	Draft report

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Agenda item</u>	<u>Title or description</u>
E/C.2/1987/NGO/1	3	Statement submitted by: Lutheran World Federation, Friends World Committee for Consultation, International League for Human Rights and International Association for Religious Freedom, non-governmental organizations in consultative status, category II
E/C.2/R.65 and Add.1	3	Deferred applications for consultative status and deferred requests for reclassification: memorandum by the Secretary-General
E/C.2/R.66	3	Postponed applications for consultative status and postponed requests for reclassification: memorandum by the Secretary-General
E/C.2/R.67 and Add.1-3	3	New applications for consultative status: memorandum by the Secretary-General
E/C.2/R.68	3	New requests for reclassification: memorandum by the Secretary-General
