

1225 (XLII). Non-governmental organizations: applications and reapplications for consultative status

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the importance of developing effective relationships, under Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations, with non-governmental organizations in order to enhance the contributions they can make towards the attainment of the objectives of the United Nations, particularly in the economic, social and related fields,

Considering that the criteria laid down in its resolution 288 B (X) of 27 February 1950 for the admission of non-governmental organizations to consultative status with the Economic and Social Council do not tend to conform to the realities of contemporary experience in the international community,

Recognizing the necessity of assuring the widest possible representation of non-governmental organizations of different views and ideas on matters of interest to the Council and in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter,

Considering that the criteria in its resolution 288 B (X) do not make sufficient distinction between the requirements for admission to the various categories, especially categories A and B,

Concerned with the necessity of safeguarding the non-governmental character of organizations in consultative status in order to assure the free expression of views without government interference,

1. *Requests* the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations:

(a) To review the criteria laid down in its resolution 288 B (X) which govern the admission of non-governmental organizations to consultative status;

(b) To redefine, as appropriate, the precise requirements for each category, particularly with a view to distinguishing more clearly between category A and other categories;

(c) To review, in the light of their financial implications, the facilities and privileges enjoyed by these organizations;

(d) To give consideration to the formulation of rules which would provide for the suspension of consultative status or possibly the withdrawal of such status from non-governmental organizations which failed to live up to the principles applied in the establishment of consultative relations;

(e) To request non-governmental organizations granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council to submit information on their current activities and their sources of financing such activities;

(f) To transmit its report and recommendations not later than the forty-fourth session of the Council;

2. *Further requests* the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, on the basis of any changes in the principles and criteria approved by the Economic and Social Council:

(a) To review the nature and activities of each non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council, with a view to recommending reclassification where advisable;

(b) To review in particular whether non-governmental organizations in consultative status are subject to undue influence by Member States through financial

assistance or other means and to recommend what action should be taken by the Council to preserve the non-governmental character of all organizations associated with it;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly and to the Economic and Social Council, for any appropriate action they might desire to take, on:

(a) The procedures of associating national and international non-governmental organizations with the Office of Public Information;

(b) The possibilities of increasing the number of national non-governmental organizations from all States Members of the United Nations associated with the Office of Public Information, in order to increase their informational activities concerning economic and social affairs.

*1478th plenary meeting,
6 June 1967.*

1217 (XLII). Town twinning as a means of international co-operation

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that in resolution 2058 (XX) of 16 December 1965 the General Assembly stressed that experience in recent years had shown the great value of town twinning, practised without any discrimination, that town twinning promoted the achievement of the great ideals enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and that the first African Conference of World-Wide Inter-Community Co-operation, held at Dakar from 1 to 3 April 1964, had laid special emphasis on twinning co-operation; that it considered town twinning to be one of the means of co-operation which the United Nations should encourage on a permanent basis; that it requested the Economic and Social Council, in collaboration with the appropriate non-governmental organizations in consultative status, to prepare a programme of measures through which the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization might take concrete steps to encourage further the achievement of the largest possible number of twinned towns; that it requested the Council to submit to the Assembly at its twenty-second session a report on the programmes of action that had been taken to comply with that resolution; and that it requested the Secretary-General to take, through his offices, all suitable measures to encourage this form of co-operation,⁸⁵

Considering that there are non-governmental organizations in consultative status which can assist, in accordance with paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 2058 (XX), in promoting town twinning as a means of co-operation, as defined,

1. *Suggests* to Governments that they seek the participation of such non-governmental organizations in assisting in the formulation and implementation of United Nations Development Programme projects in which town twinning or other forms of inter-municipal co-operation may play an important role;

2. *Invites* appropriate non-governmental organizations, to this end:

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, agenda item 18, document E/4309.