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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
HUMAN RIGHTS

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS NOT IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Preparatory Committee for its consideration a communication relative to previous applications from non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council which was received by him subsequent to those which appear in document A/CONF.32/PC/L.23 and Add.1.
2. The communication received is reproduced below in extenso.

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of the Syrian Arab Republic

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

/Original: English/  
19 March 1968

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. SO 214 (7-1) dated 29 February 1968, I have the honour to include herewith the additional information concerning Syrian non-governmental organizations required by this letter.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

George J. TOMEH  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Mr. Marc Schreiber  
Director, Division of Human Rights  
Executive Secretary of the International  
Conference on Human Rights  
United Nations, New York

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1. GENERAL (CONFEDERATION OF) WORKERS UNION<sup>1/</sup>

1. Standing

A continued struggle for attaining the rights of workers - to just wages, to labour organization.

Under the Mandate, and in 1935, workers obtained permission to form trade unions.

1938 witnessed the rise of the General Confederation of Labour in Syria.

1939 - legislation permitting the formation of independent labour syndicates.

1946 - the long struggle of workers culminated in law 279 (1946) organizing industrial relationships on modern bases.

1964 - the General Confederation is issued from free and comprehensive elections.

2. Interest in human rights

Long struggle for obtaining the rights of workers.

Striving for confirming the role of workers in society.

Fighting injustice, exploitation, unfair conditions against workers.

Programming the role of the workers in fighting backwardness and under-development.

3. International character

Confederation as the real initiator of the General Arab Confederation.

Its constant backing of anti-colonial movements and movements of liberation in colonial countries.

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<sup>1/</sup> Original application appears in No. 18 of document A/CONF.32/PC/L.23.

2. SYRIAN PEASANTS' GENERAL UNION<sup>1/</sup>

Standing

The Peasants' General Union of the Syrian Arab Republic was established in 1964. It was officially recognized as an independent organization by legislative decree No. 127 dated 14 December 1964.

Objectives

The Peasants' General Union has three complementary objectives: social, economic and political. The social objectives consist of raising the standard of life of the peasant class by promoting its economic, social, cultural and health conditions. The economic objectives aim at promoting development programmes in the field of agriculture and at ensuring the active participation of the peasantry in agrarian reform and agricultural legislation. As to the political objectives of the Union, they consist of fulfilling the establishment of socialism and of contributing in the liberation of the Arab homeland from colonialism and the realizations of Arab national unity.

Union's interest in human rights

The Union is deeply committed to the defence of the rights and freedoms of the Arab peasant class. Thus far it has played a fundamental role in the process of socialist transformation and in building a vast economic base that would bring about the emancipation of the peasantry from backwardness and under-development. In its endeavour to create conditions for a decent and dignified life for the Arab peasant, the Union feels that it has a genuine interest in participating in international conferences where it could advocate and enhance the cause of the peasant class. Far from being parochial, the Peasants' General Union considers its cause as one and the same with that of workers everywhere.

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/ Original application appears in No. 19 of document A/CONF.32/PC/L.23.

### International structure

The Peasant's General Union was able to demonstrate its keen interest in the promotion of human rights within the Arab sphere as well as in the international one. It established close organic relationships with various Arab and non-Arab organizations. It has actively participated in various international conferences to promote the well-being of the peasant class. Moreover, it has co-ordinated its activities with a number of peasant's organizations in order to fulfil the objectives of the International Year for Human Rights.

### 3. GENERAL UNION OF SYRIAN ARAB WOMEN<sup>1/</sup>

#### Activities on international level:

Organizing women potentials and co-ordinating their efforts within a framework of collective and organized work in order to realize the objectives of the revolution in building a unified socialist Arab society.

Collaboration with masses of women and women's organizations in other Arab countries for the emancipation of the Arab women and in finding practical means that can ensure her active participation in the struggle for socialism and unity.

Supplying the woman with the opportunity to fulfil her role in adopting the stands of the revolution and participating in the struggle of women for emancipation on the international level.

#### Human rights:

Deepening the national and social consciousness and raising the cultural and social standard of women and providing suitable circumstances for the woman to exercise her rights and fulfil her duties in all the fields.

Providing social services that will ensure security for the woman in her role as a mother and active member of society.

Co-operation in the social services with the object of ensuring sanitary and cultural services to the citizens.

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<sup>1/</sup> Original application appears in No. 20 of document A/CONF.32/PC/L.23.

#### 4. UNION OF STUDENTS<sup>1/</sup>

##### 1. Recognized standing

This Union is the only recognized organization qualified to speak on behalf of the students.

The constitution of the Union has been approved by legislative decree.

##### 2. Interests

Article 3 of the constitution enumerates the preoccupations of the Union which, apart from defending the rights of the students, aim at securing free education for all, eliminating illiteracy.

##### 3. International character

This is borne by the goals of the Union as illustrated, among others, in paragraphs 4 and 5 of its constitution.

In fact, the Union strives to promote this with other student organizations on the international level, to work for the unification of Arab students' movements and to back the national liberation movements.

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<sup>1/</sup> Original application appears in No. 21 of document A/CONF.32/PC/L.23.