

United Nations



Nations Unies

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS BRANCH
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8 August 2023

Dear NGO Representative,

Subject: Follow-up to the decision of the Economic and Social Council

I am pleased to inform you that on 25 July 2023, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to grant special consultative status to your organization, **Africa Faith and Justice Network**. Please accept our heartfelt congratulations.

Consultative status for an organization enables it to engage in a number of ways with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, the Human Rights Council and, under specific conditions, some meetings of the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies, as well as with the United Nations Secretariat. For information on United Nations sessions and events opened to NGOs with consultative status, **please consult our booklet “Working with ECOSOC: an NGO Guide to consultative status”** available on our website in several languages at: <http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=134>.

In order to better understand this relationship, we take this opportunity to provide some critical information about the **privileges** that consultative status with ECOSOC confers on your organization, as well as the **obligations** that your organization will be required to meet under this relationship. **We therefore urge you to take the time to carefully review the information provided below.**

A. Privileges and benefits of consultative status

1) ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31

- Arrangements for consultations with NGOs are regulated by ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, adopted by the Council on 25 July 1996. Please review the entire resolution at: <http://csonet.org/content/documents/199631.pdf> for detailed information. It provides information on ways to participate in the work of the Council, based on the nature and scope of work that your organization undertakes.

Africa Faith and Justice Network

Consultative relationship with NGOs also enables the Council or one of its bodies to seek expert information or advice from organizations with special competence in a subject matter;

2) Attendance at meetings and access to the United Nations

- Your status now entitles you to designate official representatives to the United Nations Headquarters in New York and the United Nations Offices at Geneva and Vienna. Your representatives will be able to register for and participate in sessions, events, conferences and activities of the United Nations, and organizations in general and special consultative status may designate authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, the Human Rights Council and, under certain conditions, the General Assembly and other United Nations intergovernmental bodies. These arrangements may be supplemented to include other means of participation. To ensure your participation, please use the username and password that have already been assigned to your organization and login to the NGO Branch website at: <http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=14> for more information.
- In order to obtain grounds passes, please use the same login and password information and follow the instructions carefully to designate your representatives for the current calendar year. Representatives nominated by your organization are required to collect their grounds passes in person at designated locations in New York, Geneva and Vienna.
- Your login and password information should also be used to update your organizational profile and contact information at all times so that we can keep you informed of important communications from the United Nations in a timely manner. Please be aware that all communications from the United Nations Secretariat will be sent to the email address that your organization has provided in its organizational profile. It is the responsibility of the NGO to provide and update this information. Therefore, please set up your email address in such a way as to enable your organization to monitor incoming messages from the NGO Branch without interruption. **To this end, you are advised to check and update your organizational profile every six months at: <http://esango.un.org/civilsociety/login.do>. Failure to do so may cause you to miss critical information from our Office pertaining to your consultative status, or any other information that may prove invaluable to your work and/or your participation in the work of the United Nations.**

3) Written statements at ECOSOC

- Organizations in general and special consultative status are able to submit written statements relevant to the work of the Council on subjects in which these organizations have a special competence. These statements may be circulated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the members of the Council.

- Requirements regarding the submission and circulation of written statements are elaborated in resolution 1996/31. They include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Written statements shall be submitted in one of the two working languages of the United Nations (English or French);

(b) They shall be submitted within the time period indicated prior to the Council's meeting each year in order to allow appropriate consultations between the Secretary-General and the organization before circulation;

(c) Written statements from organizations in general consultative status are limited to a maximum of 2,000 words;

(d) Written statements from organizations in special consultative status are limited to a maximum of 500 words;

4) Oral presentations at ECOSOC

- Requirements for oral statements include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations makes recommendations to the Council about which organizations in general and special consultative status should make an oral presentation to the Council, as well as the items on which they should be heard. Such organizations are entitled to make one statement to the Council, subject to the approval of the Council;

5) Consultations with ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies

- Commissions and other subsidiary bodies of ECOSOC may consult with NGOs in general and special status; and such consultations may be arranged at the request of the NGO;
- A commission of ECOSOC may recommend that an NGO with special competence in a particular field undertake studies or investigations, or prepare papers for the commission;
- NGOs shall be able to consult officers of the appropriate offices of the Secretariat on matters of mutual interest or concern. Such consultation shall be at the request of the NGO or the Secretary-General;
- The Secretary-General may request organizations in consultative status to carry out studies or prepare papers.

6) Use of United Nations facilities

The Secretary-General is authorized to offer United Nations facilities to NGOs in consultative status, including:

- accommodation for conferences or smaller meetings related to the work of ECOSOC, as available and under the conditions set at each UN Office;
- appropriate seating arrangements and facilities for obtaining documents during public meetings of the General Assembly that deal with matters in the economic and social and related fields;
- arrangement of informal discussions on matters of special interest to groups or organizations;
- access to United Nations press documentation services;
- prompt and efficient distribution of documents related to ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies as the Secretary-General deems appropriate;
- use of United Nations libraries.

B. Responsibilities and obligations of NGOs in consultative status

1) Quadrennial reports

- Organizations in general and special consultative status are required to submit a report on the activities of their organizations in support of the work of ECOSOC and the United Nations **once every four years**, known as quadrennial reports, as per ECOSOC resolution 1996/31. This requirement is reinforced through ECOCOC resolution 2008/4 on “Measures to improve the quadrennial reporting procedures.” In keeping with these requirements, **your organization will be required to submit its first report for the 2023-2026 reporting period by no later than 1 June 2027** for review by the Committee on NGOs. Please download and carefully follow the guidelines for the submission of these reports on the NGO Branch website at: <http://csonet.org/?menu=85>
- In the intervening periods between the submission of quadrennial reports, organizations are advised to keep detailed records of participation in United Nations meetings and events, as well as cooperation with United Nations funds and agencies for inclusion in subsequent reports.

2) Suspension and withdrawal of consultative status

- As per resolution 2008/4, if an NGO fails to submit its quadrennial report by the due date of 1 June, following three reminders after the initial due date, the Committee on NGOs shall recommend immediate suspension of consultative status for the organization the following year for a period of one year.

- According to the same resolution, NGOs whose consultative status has been suspended due to an outstanding quadrennial report will be required to submit the report within the period of suspension in order for the Committee on NGOs to consider, take note of the report and recommend reinstatement of consultative status.
- If, however, an NGO fails to submit the report within the stipulated period, the Committee on NGOs shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council the immediate withdrawal of consultative status. Once consultative status has been withdrawn by the Council, the NGO will no longer be entitled to the benefits and privileges of the relationship.
- The organization concerned will be entitled to re-apply for consultative status only after a period of three years, following the effective date of withdrawal of status.
- Additionally, consultative status of NGOs can be suspended for up to three years or withdrawn by the decision of the Economic and Social Council on the recommendation of its Committee on Non- Governmental Organizations in the following cases:
 - (a) If an organization, either directly or through its affiliates or representatives acting on its behalf, clearly abuses its status by engaging in a pattern of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations including unsubstantiated or politically motivated acts against Member States of the United Nations incompatible with those purposes and principles;
 - (b) If there exists substantiated evidence of influence from proceeds resulting from internationally recognized criminal activities such as the illicit drugs trade, money-laundering or the illegal arms trade;
 - (c) If, within the preceding three years, an organization did not make any positive or effective contribution to the work of the United Nations and, in particular, of the Council or its commissions or other subsidiary organs.

Strict prohibitions against misrepresentation of consultative status

- NGOs in consultative status are **NOT** considered part of the United Nations system. As such, they are not representatives or staff of the United Nations, nor are they authorized to enter into business arrangements on behalf of the United Nations or **misuse the United Nations' name or logo for endorsement of an organization's activities in any way**. Furthermore, consultative status does not entitle NGOs any privileges such as tax exemptions, diplomatic passports, travel privileges, etc.
- NGOs in consultative status are forbidden to use the United Nations logo on their stationery, business cards, websites, meeting banners, cars, office

buildings, etc. Misrepresentation of consultative relationship can result in adverse consequences for your organization.

- If the organization wishes to display consultative status on its letterhead, the following statement can be included below the name of the organization: *“Organization in (Category of consultative status) with the Economic and Social Council since (year status granted).”*

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. We welcome the opportunity to work with you and will be happy to facilitate your participation in the work of the United Nations, in particular ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink, appearing to read 'Wook-Jin Chang' with Chinese characters '張' and '吳' integrated into the script.

Wook-Jin Chang
Chief, NGO Branch

Office of Intergovernmental Support and
Coordination for Sustainable Development

Department of Economic and Social Affairs