



Chair,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of 58 Member States and the European Union: Andorra, Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Timor Leste, the United Kingdom United States of America, Vanuatu and my own country, the Dominican Republic.

In contrast to the underlying position of the proposal under discussion, firmly believe that independent civil society plays a fundamental role in supporting and strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to achieve its purposes and principles.

Civil society participation does not create challenges, it creates opportunities.

Contrary to what the proposal indicates, we are convinced that the participation of civil society in United Nations meetings and processes should be further strengthened. We are also certain that it is possible to find ways to work collaboratively to further increase the diversity of civil society in the United Nations.

We firmly believe that the participation of civil society in the United Nations is not only essential but critical in advancing our collective goals and aspirations. Civil society actors bring invaluable perspectives, lived experiences, and expertise to the table, enriching our discussions and improving the relevance and outcomes of our work, which serve the global community



We commend and endorse the sentiments expressed by the UN Secretary-General in his report “Our Common Agenda.” His call for a paradigm shift towards the direct inclusion of civil society across all pillars of UN activities resonates deeply with our commitment to fostering a more inclusive and participatory international system.

We are part of a wider group of Member States that has repeatedly affirmed its dedication to this transformative shift.

The unanimous adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stands as a testament to our collective pledge to involve **all segments of society, including civil society**, Indigenous Peoples, and the scientific and academic community, in our pursuit of sustainable development.

Furthermore, the commitments outlined in the UN75 Declaration underscore our shared responsibility to make the United Nations more inclusive and responsive to the needs and voices of **all relevant stakeholders**, particularly civil society. However, we acknowledge that despite these commitments, civil society actors have faced significant obstacles, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We reject the narrative that portrays NGOs as instruments or tools of rich countries and large corporations to advance their interests.

We also reject the idea that the participation of NGOs, per se, consolidates inequalities. On the contrary, there extensive examples in which the international civil society has helped to reduce them.

There are recent examples of relevant negotiations in which civil society contributed to facilitate the participation of delegations from developing countries, in particular of LDC’s. The participation of these delegates allowed them to defend their interests in these crucial negotiations. and helped to balance the discussions.

For the reasons articulated herein, we collectively object to the proposal under discussion.



Not all NGOs operate under the same model or have the same sources of funding. NGOs, from all regions of the world rely on a diverse range of funding sources, including individual donations from their communities.

Additionally, the assertion that NGOs do not contribute to economic goods overlooks their role in promoting social welfare, human rights, and sustainable development, which are invaluable to both local communities and global society.

Furthermore, suggesting that NGOs are proxies for foreign interests is incorrect and ignores the agency and autonomy of local organizations in advocating for the needs and rights of their communities.

NGOs play a crucial role in providing a voice for the vulnerable, and marginalized populations and, hold governments and corporations accountable, regardless of their funding sources or geographic location.

Furthermore, it is imperative to ensure equitable participation for all NGOs in the United Nations, particularly those from developing countries who often face significant challenges. As stated in ECOSOC resolution 1996/31, there is a pressing need to encourage greater involvement of NGOs from these regions in UN conferences. This resolution also includes procedures regarding the consultative relationship between the UN and NGOs. Therefore, the procedural concerns raised in the proposal are already addressed.

Civil society organizations are not only integral to our societies but also to the UN itself. Their expertise and grassroots connections offer invaluable insights that enrich decision-making processes. They serve as essential partners in advancing shared goals and promoting accountability. They represent the voices of the people and the communities for which the UN gathers to reaffirm human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person.

In closing, we would like to be clear that we object to the proposal because we believe that it is crucial to recognize the positive contributions that NGOs, regardless of their origin, can make towards global cooperation and development.



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NGOs from both developed and developing countries play a vital role in bringing diverse perspectives. Rather than viewing NGO participation solely through the lens of power dynamics, we should strive for inclusivity and equitable participation within the UN framework.

Efforts to enhance NGO engagement should focus on overcoming barriers to participation, fostering collaboration across regions and sectors, and ensuring transparency and accountability for all stakeholders. By harnessing the collective strength of civil society from diverse backgrounds, we can work towards more just, sustainable, and inclusive outcomes for all nations within the UN system.

I thank you.