

ARTICLE 71

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TEXT OF ARTICLE 71

The Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence. Such arrangements may be made with international organizations and, where appropriate, with national organizations after consultation with the Member of the United Nations concerned.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

1. The arrangements made for consultation by the Economic and Social Council with non-governmental organizations in accordance with Article 71 of the Charter and Council resolution 288 B (X) continue in effect.

I. GENERAL SURVEY

** A. The Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

** B. The purpose of consultation

C. Establishment of consultative relationships

2. The three established categories of consultative arrangements have been maintained. As of 1 September 1956, there were ten non-governmental organizations in category A consultative status, 110 in category B, and 171 on the Register.

** D. Consultation with the Council, its commissions and ad hoc bodies

** E. Consultation with the Secretariat

II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

3. With the exception of the additions indicated under the relevant sub-headings, the material treated under the following major headings remains unchanged for the period under review:

** A. Admission to, and review of, consultative status

** B. Criteria of eligibility

** C. International organizations within the meaning of Article 71

**** D. National organizations within the meaning of Article 71**

**** E. Non-governmental organizations within the meaning of Article 71**

F. Questions concerning consultation with the Council

**** 1. *The nature of consultation***

**** 2. *The scope of consultation***

3. *Statements containing complaints against Governments*

4. Council resolution 454 (XIV) concerns the procedure for handling communications received from non-governmental organizations containing complaints against Governments other than those alleging violations of human rights. On 28 February 1956, the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had before it a memorandum from the Secretary-General, who in accordance with paragraph 35 (g) of Council resolution 288 B (X), sought the Committee's guidance concerning the circulation, under resolution 454 (XIV), of a communication from a non-governmental organization containing a complaint against a Government. ^{1/} The Secretary-General informed the Committee that in his view the substance of the complaint related to a matter which, according to Article 62 of the Charter, fell within the competence of the Council. He also informed the Committee that the Government concerned opposed the circulation of the complaint on the grounds that it dealt solely with the non-enforcement of provisions of an international agreement and that in the Government's opinion the complaint should therefore not be circulated. The Committee decided that the complaint should not be circulated to the members of the Council. ^{2/} A proposal that the Committee state in its report to the Council the reasons for its decision was withdrawn by its sponsor after statements were made that it should be left to the summary record to show why the Committee so decided. In the course of the discussion the prevailing view was that as far as the subject-matter dealt with in the complaint was concerned it came, under Article 62, within the competence of the Council. However, the complaint of the non-governmental organization was not based on this but on the alleged non-enforcement of the provisions of an international convention; there was nothing to indicate that the Council had the right or the duty to supervise the implementation of international conventions.

**** 4. *The handling of written statements from organizations***

5. *Reports of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to the Council*

5. The procedure of the NGO Committee of formulating its recommendations in closed meeting, the records of which were not available to the public, was further discussed during this period. The Council approved the decision of the Committee to continue the practice of considering applications or re-applications for consultative status or requests for a change of status, in closed session. ^{3/}

**** 6. *The power of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations with respect to items proposed for inclusion in the provisional agenda of the Council***

^{1/} E/C.2/L.20.

^{2/} E/C.2/SR.158 and E/2831.

^{3/} E S C (XX), annexes, a.i. 22, p. 1, E/2694 and Corr.1; E S C (XIX), 850th mtg.

**** 7.** *Council action following the hearing of an organization in category B by the Committee*

**** G.** Attendance at public meetings of the General Assembly

**** H.** Consultation with subsidiary organs of the General Assembly

**** 1.** *Consultation with the High Commissioner's Advisory Committee on Refugees*

**** 2.** *Consultation with the Executive Board of UNICEF 4/*

I. Calling of conferences of non-governmental organizations

6. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 479 (V), the Secretary-General, as authorized by the Economic and Social Council, 5/ convened a Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations interested in the Eradication of Prejudice and Discrimination to sit in Geneva from 31 March to 4 April 1955. 6/

7. During its twelfth session held in March 1956, the Commission on Human Rights received a joint statement from eighteen non-governmental organizations indicating their consensus that a second conference of non-governmental organizations interested in the eradication of prejudice and discrimination might be convened in 1958. 7/ The Commission consequently adopted a resolution 8/ requesting the Secretary-General to invite the non-governmental organizations to state their views on the date, duration, programme, objectives and methods of this further conference and to transmit these views to the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and to the Commission on Human Rights for the consideration of those organs at their next sessions.

J. Relations with organizations not in consultative status

8. The General Assembly continued its appeal to non-governmental organizations to co-operate in the implementation of its resolutions. 9/

4/ The Executive Board now has fifty-five member organizations.

5/ E S C resolution 546 (XVIII).

6/ E/NGO/CONF.1/8 and Corr.1, 2, 3; E/NGO/CONF.1/SR.1-7.

7/ E/CN.4/NGO/67.

8/ E S C (XXII), Suppl. No. 3 (E/2844), para. 137.

9/ See, for example, G A resolutions 926 (X) and 833 (IX).