ARTICLE 71

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ARTICLE 71

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 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) continued in effect up to 23 May 1968. On that date, the Council adopted unanimously resolution 1296(XLIV) which superseded resolution 288 B (X). Resolution 1296(XLIV) redefined the requirements for the admission of non-governmental organizations to each category and included the formulation of criteria for the suspension or withdrawal of status. That period also included a review of organizations in consultative status (see section II A below).

I. GENERAL SURVEY

A. The Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

2. At its 1520th plenary meeting, on 23 May 1968, the Council adopted resolution 1296(XLIV) by which the functions of the Council Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations were expanded to include a review of the activities of the non-governmental organizations in categories I and II every four years. This resolution also authorized the Committee to recommend suspension or withdrawal of status1 and defined criteria for taking such action.2

**B. The purpose of consultation

C. Establishment of consultative relationships

3. Pursuant to the provisions of Council resolution 1296(XLIV), the three categories of consultative arrangements which had been originally established under Council resolution 288 B (X) as A, B and the Register were renamed to read I, II and the Roster. As of 1 December 1969, there were 16 non-governmental organizations in category I, 116 in category II. In addition, 33 organizations were placed on the Roster by action of the Council, 8 organizations were placed on the Roster temporarily upon the recommendation of the Secretary-General pending the concurrence of the Council, and 204 organizations were placed on the Roster by virtue of their status with a specialized agency.

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

**E. Consultations with the Secretariat

II. ANALYTICAL SUMMARY OF PRACTICE

A. Admission to, and review of, consultative status

4. A review of non-governmental organizations in categories A and B and on the Register was conducted in 1968 in response to Council resolution 1225(XLII). The Council endorsed the recommendation that all non-governmental organizations in consultative status in category B or on the Register which had not responded to the review questionnaire should cease to have consultative status.

5. By resolution 1296(XLIV) the Council called for a report from non-governmental organizations in categories I and II every four years for the purpose of reviewing the support they had given to the work of the United Nations.

6. The Council, in adopting resolution 1296(XLIV), also provided criteria for the suspension and withdrawal of consultative status. These included (a) evidence of secret governmental financial influence to induce a non-governmental organization to undertake acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations; (b) systematic engagement in unsubstantiated or politically motivated acts against Member States of the United Nations; and (c) failure, within the preceding three years, to make a positive or effective contribution to the work of the Council or its commissions or subsidiary bodies.

B. Criteria of eligibility

7. On 6 June 1967, the Council adopted resolution 1225(XLII) which called for a revision of the criteria set forth in Council resolution 288 B (X) for admitting non-governmental organizations to consulta-
tive status, and to redefine, as appropriate, the require-
ments for each category. The new criteria were defined
in Council resolution 1296(XLIV). Organizations applying
for status should reflect, where possible, the view-
points of a substantial number of countries in different
regions of the world. Organizations were asked to indicate
their sources of financing, which should be derived
mainly from contributions of affiliates and members.
Contributions from Governments, and the use to which
such funds or support was put, must be fully reported.
8. Resolution 1296(XLIV) also called for special con-
sideration to be given to the applications of organiza-
tions in the field of human rights for inclusion in
category II.

C. International organizations within the meaning
of Article 71

9. At its forty-sixth session the Council, faced with the
question as to whether the International Criminal Police
Organization (INTERPOL) was a non-governmental or
intergovernmental organization, requested the Commit-
tee on Non-Governmental Organizations to study a special
arrangement to be arrived at between the Council and
INTERPOL.

D. National organizations within the meaning of
Article 71

10. The Council, in adopting resolution 1296(XLIV),
paragraph 9, endorsed representation of national organ-
izations to reflect major interests of all regions and
areas of the world, adding this to the special experience
requirement.

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

F. Questions concerning consultation with
the Council

1. THE NATURE OF CONSULTATION

11. On several occasions the initiative for consultation
came from the General Assembly which appealed to
non-governmental organizations in consultative status by
either inviting or requesting their co-operation in regard
to such subjects as the Declaration on the Elimination
of Discrimination against Women, the International
Year for Human Rights, the United Nations Conference
on the Human Environment, the International Year for
Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination,
and the mobilization of public opinion in support of
the Second United Nations Development Decade. In
two instances, the General Assembly requested the
Secretary-General to consult and co-operate closely with
two named non-governmental organizations in category B consultative status in regard to studies being
undertaken by them concerning assistance in cases of
natural disaster and respect for human rights in armed
conflicts.

12. During its forty-seventh and resumed forty-
seventh sessions, the Council discussed the proposed
transformation of the International Union of Official
Travel Organizations (IUOTO) into an intergovern-
mental organization. The implications of this proposal,
as set forth in General Assembly resolution 2529
(XXIV), and the form of agreement between the United
Nations and IUOTO, once the latter's status had been
changed, were reviewed in order to establish the modalities
for co-operation.

13. The General Assembly, by its resolution 2529
(XXIV) of 5 December 1969, decided that, once the stat-
tutes of IUOTO had been changed to convert it into an
intergovernmental tourism organization, the Union
should function as an executing agency of the United
Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The Adminis-
trator of UNDP and the Secretary-General of IUOTO,
was asked to prepare a report containing concrete pro-
posals on measures to be taken for the implementation
of the above process for submission to the Council at its
forty-ninth session.

**2. THE SCOPE OF CONSULTATION

**3. STATEMENTS CONTAINING COMPLAINTS AGAINST
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**2. CONSULTATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
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**3. CONSULTATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS
CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

4. CONSULTATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

14. By its resolution 2152(XXI) of 17 November 1966,
the General Assembly established the United Nations
Industrial Development Organization and, inter alia,
authorized its Industrial Development Board to estab-
lish a working relationship with international non-
governmental organizations concerned with the promo-
tion of industrial development.

3See G A resolutions 2265(XXII), 2339(XXII), 2441(XXIII), 2398
(XXIII), 2581(XXIV), 2544(XXIV) and 2567(XXIV).
4G A resolutions 2435(XXIII) and 2597(XXIV).
5As of 31 December 1969, there were 77 non-governmental organ-
izations in status with UNICEF.
15. On the basis of this authorization, provision was made in rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Industrial Development Board for non-governmental organizations concerned with the problems of industrial development to designate representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the Board, its committees and subsidiary organs. Provision was also made for the Board to adopt and revise, when necessary, a list of such organizations. Further provision was made for international non-governmental organizations to make oral statements on matters within the scope of the Industrial Development Board's activities upon the invitation of the president or chairman, and subject to the approval of the Board or the subsidiary organ concerned. Written statements by non-governmental organizations on items on the agenda of the Board or its subsidiary organs would be circulated by the Secretariat to members of the Board and subsidiary organs concerned.


16. During the period under review, the General Assembly continued to appeal to non-governmental organizations to co-operate in the implementation of its resolutions without reference to whether they had consultative status or not.7

17. By resolution 1297(XLIV), the Council urged the Office of Public Information to increase the number of non-governmental organizations associated with it. It also encouraged that Office to accord immediate and sympathetic consideration upon application by organizations from inadequately represented regions of the world. By resolution 1297(XLIV), the Council also requested the Office of Public Information to exclude all organizations whose aims or practices contributed to the propagation of nazi ideology and to racial or religious discrimination.

7See, for example, GA resolutions 2155(XXI), 2158(XXI), 2192(XXII), 2263(XXII), 2388(XXII), 2441(XXXIII), 2544(XXIV), 2567(XXIV) and 2381(XXIV).