



Monthly service of UN DESA NGO Branch | **CSO Net** – [www.un.org/ecosoc/ngo](http://www.un.org/ecosoc/ngo)

## Welcome to the UN!

Below is a brief summary of upcoming intergovernmental meetings to which NGOs with ECOSOC consultative status can participate. Click on the link for further information on the event. All events have their own registration procedure; make sure you have registered your organization's participation. Unless otherwise indicated, the events below are held in New York.

## Upcoming Events

### **New: 2011 Resumed Session, Committee on NGOs, 16–24 May 2011**

The Committee concluded its work in New York on Tuesday, and recommended 144 applications for consultative status with ECOSOC. These recommendations will be reviewed by the Council at its annual session taking place in Geneva, at or around 25 July. *A list of recommended NGOs is available at [bit.ly/j0TPPS](http://bit.ly/j0TPPS)*

### **General Assembly Informal Thematic Debate on the Green Economy, 2 June 2011**

The Thematic Informal debate aims to strengthen the understanding of green economy and of what the international community, each Member State and local communities can do to transition to green economy. The debate will underscore the linkages between green economy, economic development, poverty eradication, and environmental protection. It is envisioned that these discussions will help strengthen mutual understanding and support international collaboration regarding the green economy.  
<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/initiatives/ge.shtml>

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**CSO Net** is the online NGO portal of DESA, empowering NGOs to register for UN events, learn, and interact. [Visit.](#)

### **17th session, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 30 May – 17 June 2011**

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is an inter-governmental body within the UN system made up of 47 States responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. It was created by the UN General Assembly in 2006 with the main purpose of addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. The 17th session will include a debate on the Council President's Open-ended Informal Consultations on draft resolution on the Outcome of the HRC Review.

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/ngo.htm>

### **2011 General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AIDS, 8–10 June 2011**

Three decades into the AIDS pandemic, ten years after the adoption of the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS and five years after the adoption of the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS, Member States will come together to review progress and chart the future course of the global AIDS response at the 2011 UN General Assembly High Level Meeting on AIDS from 8 – 10 June 2011 in New York. Informal civil society hearings were held on 8 April.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/issues/hivaids.s>

## More Upcoming Events

### **General Assembly High-level meeting on the prevention and control of Non-communicable Diseases, 19–20 Sept 2011; Hearings, 16 June 2011**

The General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/65/238, decided that a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases shall be held on 19 and 20 September 2011 in New York. The event shall address the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases worldwide, with a particular focus on developmental and other challenges and social and economic impacts, particularly for developing countries. The resolution also requests the President of the General Assembly to organize an informal interactive hearing, scheduled for 16 June 2011, with non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia to provide an input to the preparatory process for the high-level meeting. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/issues/ncdiseases.shtml>

### **Engaging Citizens and Civil Society Organizations in Reconstruction and Recovery Strategies after Natural Disasters, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 20–23 June 2011**

An international Workshop on “Engaging Citizens and Civil Society Organizations to Promote Effectiveness, Accountability and Transparency in Reconstruction and Recovery Strategies after Natural Disasters” will take place in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 20–23 June 2011, in connection with UN and Africa Public Service Forum, during which the UN will grant awards for international best practices in public administration, as part of the celebration of the World Public Service Day. The workshop will serve as a platform of experts to share their experiences on engaging citizens to enhance effectiveness, accountability and transparency in recovery and reconstruction strategies in post-natural disaster situations.

<http://www.unpan.org/2011unpsd>

### **2011 UNCTAD Public Symposium, Geneva, 22–24 June 2011**

UNCTAD's third Public Symposium provides a venue for multi-stakeholder dialogue on topics likely to dominate the global political agenda in 2011 and 2012. Its two main topics will be financial and monetary reforms for sustainable development, and how to make the transition to a green economy fair and equitable.

<http://www.unctad.info/en/Public-Symposium-2011>

### **2011 ECOSOC High Level Segment, Geneva, 4–7 July 2011**

The Annual Ministerial Review of the 2011 High Level Segment of the Council will focus on implementing the internationally-agreed goals and commitments in regard to Education. The Ministerial Review will assess the state of implementation of the United Nations Development Agenda with a focus on its education-related goals and objectives. It will also analyze key challenges affecting the achievement of the internationally agreed goals and commitments related to education and consider recommendations and proposals for action, including new initiatives and partnerships to accelerate the implementation of education-related objectives. It also aims to promote broad-based engagement by encouraging input from a broad-range of stakeholders. Organizations in general and special consultative status are encouraged to make oral presentations to the Council, as well as to submit written statements.

<http://esango.un.org/irene/?page=static&content=statements2011>

For general information on the work of the Council, see:

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc>

## More Upcoming Events

### General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Youth, 25–26 July 2011

As part of the International Youth Year, the General Assembly will hold a high-level meeting on youth on 25 and 26 July 2011. The high-level meeting will have as its overarching theme “Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding”. The high-level meeting will comprise two consecutive informal interactive roundtables on 25 July 2011 and two plenary meetings on 26 July 2011. The round tables will be chaired by Member States at the invitation of the President of the General Assembly.

<http://social.un.org/youthyear/>

### Second Session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, 1–5 August 2011

The Second Session of the working group on strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons will be convened from 1 to 5 August 2011 in New York.

<http://social.un.org/ageing-working-group/ngosecondsession.shtml>

### 64th Annual DPI-NGO Conference: Sustainable Societies; Responsible Citizens, Bonn, Germany, 3–5 September 2011

The 64th Annual DPI/NGO Conference aims to highlight effective ways in which citizens and civil society, in partnership with other stakeholders, can contribute to creating and maintaining sustainable societies – economical, cultural and environmental. The 2011 edition, held in Bonn, Germany, could be considered as a major civil society contribution to the Rio+20 Conference taking place next year, and will provide valuable network-building opportunities for all participants.

<http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/dpingorelations/Confinf>

### Opening of the 66th session of the General Assembly, 13 September 2011

The 66th regular session of the General Assembly will open at United Nations Headquarters on 13 September 2011, at 3 p.m. The General Debate will be held from 20 to 30 September 2011. The work of the Main Committees of the Assembly is expected to commence on Monday, 3 October. During the general debate there will be a number of high-level plenary meetings (*see next page*).

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/66/agenda/index.shtml>

## Frequently Asked Questions...

### What is ECOSOC?

ECOSOC stands for Economic and Social Council. It is one of the principal organs of the United Nations, together with the General Assembly and the Security Council. It is the main organ where NGOs can participate in the work of the United Nations, which remains, first and foremost, an organization with membership restricted to States. Learn more here:

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/faqs.shtml>

### What is consultative status?

NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC can attend its meetings. They can also attend meetings of many other bodies, such as the Commission for Sustainable Development, the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Human Rights Council. You can find examples of other bodies under Upcoming Events on page 1. Currently some 3,400 NGOs have consultative status and can thus attend these events.

### Why do I need consultative status with ECOSOC?

It depends on your organization's direction. If you want to influence the UN's decision-making process, or you feel your organization should be recognized by the UN, you should certainly consider applying for status. If you feel you can make better results on the ground, maybe applying for consultative status is not for you.

### How do I apply?

NGOs can apply online from our [website](#). The annual deadline for applications is **31 May**. The Committee on NGOs meets twice, in January and May of the following year, to review applications. It is a lengthy process – each year some 500 NGOs apply. The Committee recommends to the Council to approve their applications. The Council approves this recommendation once a year, during its substantive session, in Geneva or New York, in July of each year.

## More Upcoming Events

### GA High-level meeting on the prevention and control of Non-communicable Diseases, 19-20 Sept 2011

See above for a description of this event.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/issues/ncdissues.shtml>

### General Assembly High-Level meeting on Addressing Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought, 20 September 2011

Details on this event, part of the opening of the 66<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly, are currently being finalized.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/issues/index.shtml>

### General Assembly High-level meeting on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, 22 September 2011

The General Assembly will convene a high-level meeting on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in Durban, South Africa, in 2001, on 22 September 2011 in New York. Discussions on the modalities of this meeting are being currently being discussed between Member States, and are co-facilitated by the permanent representatives of Monaco and Cameroon.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/issues/durban.shtml>

## Useful Links

DESA NGO Branch | CSO Net

<http://www.un.org/ecosoc/ngo>

NGO Liaison Office, United Nations Office at Geneva

<http://unog.ch/ngo>

UN-NGLS (United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service)

<http://www.un-ngls.org>

UN Department of Public Information, NGO Relations

<http://www.un.org/dpi/ngosection>

OHCHR Civil Society Section

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx>

OHCHR Civil Society Update Subscription

<http://conta.cc/can6Gf>

## At Your Service

How to Apply for Consultative Status

<http://bit.ly/fOYweW>

How to Submit a Quadrennial Report

<http://bit.ly/fBIU7e>

Committee on NGOs Home Page

<http://bit.ly/dOMx8w>

How to obtain a UN Grounds Pass

<http://bit.ly/e41f2D>

Ask a question on my organization's status

<http://bit.ly/g5DKZ0>

ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31

<http://bit.ly/eDu4cE>

Learn how to participate in the work of the United Nations

<http://bit.ly/i6Wi0D>

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