



Monthly service of UN DESA NGO Branch | **CSO Net** – 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

2011 Global Preparatory Meeting of ECOSOC, 28 April 2011

The 2011 Global Preparatory Meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on the theme "Meeting the Internationally Agreed Goals and Commitments with regards to Education" will take place on 28 April 2011 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This event is organized as part of the preparatory process of the 2011 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR).

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/gpm2011.shtml>

19th session, Commission on Sustainable Development, 2–13 May 2011

As the second year of the CSD-18/19 implementation cycle, CSD-19 will produce policy decisions on the following thematic areas: Transport, Chemicals, Waste Management (hazardous and solid waste), Mining, and a 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns.

http://www.un.org/esa/dsd/csd/csd_csd19.shtml

Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-IV), Istanbul, 9 to 13 May 2011

The Least Developed Countries (LDCs), a group of 49 countries recognized as the poorest and weakest segment of the international community, require special support from the international community to overcome poverty and achieve sustainable development. Since 1981, the UN has organized

INSIDE

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Upcoming Events | 1 |
| FAQs | 2 |
| FAQs | 3 |
| Contact Us | 4 |

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three Conferences on the LDCs in order to streamline support from the international community and to mobilize resources. In order to assess the results of the Brussels Programme of Action and adopt new measures and strategies for the sustainable development of the LDCs into 2020, the Conference will be held in Istanbul, Turkey from 9 to 13 May 2011. There will also be an LDC-IV Civil Society Forum from 7–13 May 2011. Civil Society Interactive Hearings on the conference were held on 1 April at UN Headquarters in New York.

<https://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/ldc/home>

10th session, United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 16–27 May 2011

The 10th session of the Forum will discuss follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on economic and social development; environment; and on free, prior and informed consent. It will also discuss human rights issues, in particular in relation to the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. The Forum will also have a dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and other United Nations human rights mechanisms. A half-day discussion on Central and South America and the Caribbean is also planned. The Permanent Forum has a biannual working method of one policy year and one review year. 2011 will be a review year.

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_tenth.html

Continues on next page

More Upcoming Events

2011 resumed session, Committee on NGOs, 16–24 May 2011

The Committee will continue its work for the year with 117 new requests for consultative status, 216 requests deferred from earlier sessions, and 131 quadrennial reports of NGOs in general or special consultative status with ECOSOC. An information note containing all organizations being reviewed is available from the website.

<http://esango.un.org/paperless/Web?page=static&content=committee>

Thematic Debate on International Migration and Development, 19 May 2011

International migration is integral to development processes and to the functioning of modern economies. The discussion will also contribute to the wider, ongoing dialogue on international migration and development, including the General Assembly's 2013 High-Level Dialogue. Registration for the event is now closed.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/initiatives/migration.shtml>

17th session, Human Rights Council, Geneva, 17–30 May 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://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/CivilSociety.aspx>

11th session, Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review, Geneva, 2–13 May 2011

The following countries will be considered at the forthcoming session: Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Hungary, Latvia.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/NgosNhris.aspx>

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

A full calendar of meetings of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights can be accessed here.

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/Meetings.aspx>

A Conversation with John Prendergast on Genocide Prevention, 20 May 2011

At this informal event, Mr. John Prendergast, founder of The Enough Project, and a world-renowned human rights activist, and Mr. Francis Deng, the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, will engage the audience in a dialogue on genocide prevention from the legal, political, social and human rights perspectives. The one-day event will also include a workshop with Holocaust educators led by the Holocaust and the United Nations Outreach Programme and Facing History and Ourselves.

Holocaustremembrance@un.org

14th session, Commission on Science and Technology for Development, Geneva, 23–27 May 2011

At its 14th session, CSTD will address two of its priority themes within the framework of its multi-year work programme, namely: (a) Technologies to address challenges in areas such as agriculture and water; and (b) Measuring the impact of information and communications technology for development. The Commission will also review the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). This will include consideration of improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

<http://www.unctad.org/cstd>

More Upcoming Events

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.shtml>

Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases, 19-20 Sept 2011; Hearings, 16 June 2011

This 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. An informal interactive hearing on 16 June 2011, with NGOs, CSOs, the private sector and academia is to provide an input to the preparatory process for the high-level meeting. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/65/issues/ncdiseases.shtml>

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

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 directions. 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

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/>

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>

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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