Summary

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, at its resumed 2005 session, held from 5 to 20 May 2005, had before it 148 applications for consultative status, including applications deferred from previous sessions. Of those applications, the Committee recommended 105 applications for consultative status, deferred 40 organizations for further consideration at a later date and closed its consideration of two organizations. The Committee had also before it three requests for reclassification of consultative status, of which it recommended two and deferred consideration of one to its 2006 session. In addition, it reviewed 58 quadrennial reports. The Committee heard eight representatives of non-governmental organizations.

The present report contains six draft decisions on matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council.

By draft decision I, the Council would:

(a) Grant consultative status to 105 non-governmental organizations;
(b) Reclassify two non-governmental organization;
(c) Decide to defer reclassification of one non-governmental organization;
(d) Note that the Committee had taken note of 44 quadrennial reports and deferred 14 quadrennial reports;
(e) Note that the complaint submitted by Member States against two non-governmental organizations had been closed.
By draft decision II, the Economic and Social Council would suspend the consultative status of A Woman’s Voice International for one year.

By draft decision III, the Economic and Social Council would withdraw the consultative status of Associacion para la Paz Continental (ASOPAZCO).

By draft decision IV, the Economic and Social Council would request the Secretary-General to examine the causes for persistent delays in the availability of documentation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, take measures to address the problem and present a report to the Committee at its 2006 regular session.

By draft decision V, the Economic and Social Council would decide that the 2006 regular session of the Committee should be held from 19 to 27 January 2006 and its resumed session from 10 to 19 May 2006 and would approve the provisional agenda and documentation of the 2006 session of the Committee.
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Chapter I
Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decisions for adoption by the Council

1. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

The Economic and Social Council decides:
(a) To grant the following 105 non-governmental organizations consultative status:

Special consultative status
50 & PIU Fenacom
Academy for Mobilizing Rural-Urban Action through Education
Action internationale pour la paix et le developpement dans la région des Grands Lacs
ADALAH — Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel
Adelphi Research
African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies
African Empowerment Guild
African Women’s Association
All India Movement for Seva
Asociación Nacional Cívica Femenina
Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Karnataka
Association points-coeur
Association pour la recherché sur la sclérose latérale amyothrophique et autres maladies du motoneurone
Association pour le bien être des habitants de Beau Vallon
Center for Cognitive Liberty and Ethics
Centre d’Études Diplomatiques et Stratégiques
Centre for Inquiry International
Centre for Organization Research and Education
Centro de Salud Familiar la Fe
Cercle des dames mourides
Child Foundation
China Environmental Protection Foundation
Citizens for Decent Housing
Citizens United for Rehabilitation of Errants
Committee for Hispanic Children and Families
Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
Crime Stoppers International, Inc.
Cultural Survival
Ecologic Institute for International and European Environmental Policy
Ecological Youth of Angola
Environmental protection and conservation organization
Environmental Protection Society
European Solidarity Towards Equal Participation of People
Fazalldad Human Rights Institute
Federation of American Scientists
Federation of Arab Journalists
Federation of Islamic Medical Associations
Feminist Club
Firooznia Charity Foundation
Foresight Institute
Forum of Women’s NGOs of Kyrgyzstan
Foundation for the American Indians
Foundation for the Promotion and Protection of the Environment and Cultural Heritage
Foundation for the Rights of Future Generations
Fridtjof Nansen Institute
Friends of the Disabled Association
Frontier Reconstruction Welfare Agency
Fundación de la Solidaridad y el Voluntariado de la Comunidad Valenciana
Fundación Mujeres en Igualdad
Generations United
Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS
Global Resource Action Center for the Environment
Grosshandlare Axel H. Ågrens Donationsfond
Imperial Orthodox Palestine Society
Indian Federation of United Nations Associations
Institution nationale de solidarité avec les femmes en détresse
International Association of Applied Psychology
International Bridges to Justice
International Holistic Tourism Education Centre
Internews International
Kerala Rural Development Agency
Landsraget for sveriges ungdomsorganizationer
Lawyers Rights Watch Canada
LIBERA — Associazioni, nomi e numeri contro le mafie
Maharashtra Foundation
Mata Amritandamayi Math
Mauritius Council of Social Service
Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development
National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials
National Community Reinvestment Coalition
National Council on Family Relations
Netherlands Humanist Committee on Human Rights
New Ways: Women for Women’s Human Rights
Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development
Organisation du renouveau de la prise de conscience féminine
Organizatioa Pentru Apararea Drepturilor Omului
Osservatorio per la comunicazione culturale e l’audiovisivo nel mediterraneo e nel mondo
Pasumai Thaayagam Foundation
Peace Worldwide
Project Kesher
S. M. Sehgal Foundation (India)
Swedish NGO Foundation for Human Rights
Swiss Peace Foundation
Tamana Association
U.S. Federation for Middle East Peace
UNANIMA International
Union de asociaciones familiares
Water Aid
Women Environmental Programme
Women’s Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling
World Russian People’s Council
World Water Council
Yemeni Women Union
Youth Association for Habitat and Agenda 21

Roster
American Foundation of Savoy Orders
Engine Manufacturers Association
General Union
Literacy Tech Foundation
Nurses Across the Borders
Providence Center for Humanity International
Social Aid of Hellas
Space Generation Advisory Council
Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturer’s Institute
Young Women’s Christian Association of Nigeria
Youth Enhancement Organization

(b) To reclassify the following non-governmental organization from Roster to general consultative status:
   International Research Centre for Environmental Structures “Pio Manzu”

(c) To reclassify the following non-governmental organization from Roster to special consultative status:
   International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences

(d) To note that the Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of the following 44 organizations (years of reporting indicated in parentheses):
   AARP (formerly known as American Association of Retired Persons) (1999-2002)
   Armenian Assembly of America (1999-2002)
   Asian Centre for Organization, Research and Development (1999-2002)
Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (1999-2002)
Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations (1999-2002)
Coordination francaise du lobby européen des femmes (2000-2003)
Franciscans International (1999-2002)
International Association for Religious Freedom (1999-2002)
International Trustee Fund of the Tsyolkovsky Moscow State Aviation Technological University (1999-2002)
Medical Women’s International Association (1999-2002)
Stree Aadhar Kendra (Women’s Development Center) (1999-2002)
Teresian Association (1999-2002)
Union internationale des avocats (1999-2002)
Women’s Union of Russia (1999-2002)
World Federation of the Ukrainian Women’s Organizations (2000-2003)

(e) To note that the Committee closed the case of two complaints submitted by Member States against the following organizations:

Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos
Transnational Radical Party

Draft decision II
Suspension of consultative status

The Economic and Social Council decides to suspend the special consultative status of A Woman’s Voice International for one year.

Draft decision III
Withdrawal of consultative status

The Economic and Social Council decides to withdraw the special consultative status of the International Council of the Associations for Peace in the Continents.

Draft decision IV
Issuance of documentation for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

The Economic and Social Council takes note of decision 2005/1 of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the issuance of documentation for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, decides to request the Secretary-General to examine the causes for persistent delays in the availability of documentation to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, to take measures to address the problem and to present a report to the Committee at its 2006 regular session.

Draft decision V
Dates of the 2006 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and provisional agenda

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Decides that the 2006 regular session of the Committee will be held from 19 to 27 January 2006 and its resumed session from 10 to 19 May 2006;
(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the 2006 session of the Committee as set out below.

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:
   (a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from the previous session of the Committee;
   (b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification;
   (c) Applications of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council who have merged with other non-governmental organizations.
4. Quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:
   (a) Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Council;
   (b) Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Council.
5. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat.
6. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304:
   (a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations;
   (b) Consideration of issues on the agenda of the informal working group;
   (c) Other related matters.
8. Consideration of special reports.
10. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2007 session of the Committee.
11. Adoption of the report of the Committee.
B. Draft decision brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decision adopted by the Committee is brought to the attention of the Council.

Decision 2005/1
Issuance of documentation for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, reaffirming the six-week rule for documents in all official languages of the United Nations and noting with grave concern the consistent delays in the availability of documentation to the Committee at the 2005 resumed session and previous sessions,

Decides to request the Secretary-General to examine the causes for persistent delays in the availability of documentation to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, to take measures to address the problem and to present a report to the Committee at the 2006 regular session.

Chapter II
Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification

3. The Committee considered item 3 of its agenda at its 17th to 31st and at its 33rd to 37th meetings, held from 5 to 20 May 2005. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing new applications for consultative status received from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (E/C.2/2005/R.2/Add.16-32) and a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing requests for reclassification from non-governmental organizations (E/C.2/2005/R.3/Add.1), as well as a compilation of applications for consultative status deferred from previous sessions (E/C.2/2005/CRP.9).

A. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from previous sessions of the Committee

4. The Committee considered item 3 (a) of its agenda, contained in document E/C.2/2005/CRP.9 at its 21st to 23rd, 27th, 30th, 31st, 33rd to 35th and 37th meetings, held on 9, 10 and 12, from 16 to 18 and on 20 May 2005.

Requests for consultative status

Applications recommended

5. The Committee recommended that the Council grant consultative status to 19 organizations whose applications had been deferred from previous sessions (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (a)).
Applications deferred pending responses to questions posed by the Committee

6. The Committee deferred its consideration of the applications of the following 26 organizations pending the receipt of responses to questions posed by the Committee during its 2005 resumed session:

   AIDS Action
   Ambedkar Centre for Justice and Peace
   American Conservative Union
   Angel Foundation
   Asian-Eurasian Human Rights Forum
   Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid
   Center for Human Rights and Environment
   Egyptian Organization for Human Rights
   Human Rights International Alliance
   Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage
   International Centre for Peace Studies
   International Crisis Group
   Kashmiri American Council
   Mountain Women Development Organization
   New Millennium Peace Foundation
   NIRDHAR — Women and Child Development Organisation
   Sahara for Life Trust
   Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar
   Social Alert
   Society for the Promotion of Youth and Masses
   Stree Atyachar Virodhi Parishad
   Vali-Asr Rehabilitation Foundation for Disabled Children and Adults
   Vikas Samiti
   WAMY International (World Assembly of Muslim Youth)
   World Council of Muslim Communities
   World Sindhi Institute

Applications closed

7. At its 21st and 37th meetings, on 9 and 20 May, the Committee decided to close consideration of the applications of Le Foyer Musulman, Association internationale pour les droits de l’homme and the Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism.
B. New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification

8. The Committee considered item 3 (b) of its agenda, contained in documents E/C.2/2004/R.2/Add.16 through 32, at its 17th through 20th, 23rd to 26th, 28th to 31st and 33rd to 36th meetings, on 5, 6, 9 to 13 and 16 to 19 May 2005.

1. New applications for consultative status

Applications recommended

9. The Committee recommended that consultative status with the Council be granted to 72 organizations that had submitted new applications (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (a)).

Applications deferred pending responses posed by the Committee

10. The Committee decided to defer its consideration of the applications of the following 13 organizations to its 2006 regular session, pending the receipt of responses to questions posed by the Committee at its resumed 2005 session:

- Association Wadelbarka pour la prospe\^rite des familles Mauritanienes
- BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights
- China Association for International Science and Technology Cooperation
- Credo Action
- Fundación Teletón México AC
- International Association for Integration, Dignity, and Economic Advancement
- International Police Commission
- International Society of Addiction Medicine
- LatCrit (Latina and Latino Critical Race Theory)
- Mental Disability Rights International
- People in Need
- Political and Ethical Knowledge on Economic Activities
- Pride Youth Programs

Withdrawal of applications

11. The China Institute for Reform and Development decided to withdraw its application.

2. New requests for reclassification

12. At its 26th and 36th meetings, on 12 and 19 May, the Committee decided to recommend the reclassification of one organization from special to general consultative status (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (b)) and one organization from roster to special consultative status (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (c)).
13. At its 2005 resumed session, the Committee had decided to defer the application of the International Association of Women’s Judges to its 2006 regular session, pending the organization’s response to questions posed by the Committee.

Chapter III

Other matters

14. At its 25th and 35th meetings, on 11 and 19 May 2005, the Committee had before it the updated application of the International Council of the Association for the Peace in the Continents, which had been granted special consultative status in 1999 and suspended in 2000.

15. At its 2004 regular session, the Committee decided, before considering the reinstatement of consultative status to the organization, to request that it submit a special report on its activities during its three years of suspension and explain how it had overcome the reasons for the suspension.

16. At its 2005 regular session, having heard a number of Member States express their dissatisfaction on the report submitted by the organization, the Committee decided to request that it present an updated application to be recognized as a consultative entity, which the Committee would examine at future sessions.

17. At its 25th meeting, on 11 May, the Committee considered the updated application of the organization.

18. The representative of Cuba stated that the organization had not replied to the questions put to it by the Committee in its 2005 decision regarding the activities of the organization, its membership, its affiliated organizations and what changes the organization had made during the years when its status had been suspended. The reply was vague and the main elements that had led to the Committee’s decision to suspend its status remained valid. He underlined that the organization continued to be engaged in a pattern of acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including politically motivated acts against Member States of the United Nations, which were incompatible with those purposes and principles. The organization maintained close contact with individuals who were politically motivated against Cuba. He also stated that the President and Vice-President of the organization continued to organize, support and finance activities inside and outside the Cuban territory aimed at overthrowing the constitutionally elected Government. The organization had close links with the “Elena Mederos Foundation” and the Cuban-American National Foundation, which had the clear objective of working against Cuba. He said that the Cuban-American National Foundation had fomented terrorist actions against the Cuban people and had caused material and human losses.

19. The representative of Cuba proposed to reject the application submitted by the organization since it was trying to misinform the Committee on matters that it had hidden, misrepresented or omitted.

20. The representative of the United States of America was of the view that the organization had satisfied the request of the Committee to produce an updated application. Other members, including the Sudan, China and Zimbabwe, supported the Cuban position.
21. In the ensuing debate, the representative of Cuba reluctantly agreed that the organization would be notified by the Secretariat of the Committee’s intention to act on a proposal to withdraw its status during the current session. The organization was given five working days to provide a response to questions posed by the delegation of Cuba.

22. At the 35th meeting of the Committee, on 19 May, the representative of Cuba, reiterating the request for withdrawal of status with the Council, said that the organization maintained strong links with organizations that worked against the Cuban Government, such as the National American Cuban Foundation, which had sponsored terrorist activities against Cuba, including support for Luis Posada Carriles. He stated that it continued to be a politicized group involved with other terrorist organizations, in contravention of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 governing consultative status of NGOs. He recalled that the organization had not yet responded to the questions posed by his delegation. He concluded by saying that those cooperating with terrorism should not be allowed to take part in the work of the United Nations.

23. In the extensive procedural debate that followed, the representative of the United States underlined that the organization had already been sanctioned and suspended for three years. Reinstatement was automatic according to the legal opinion of the United Nations. If status was to be withdrawn, a new complaint was to be filed, giving new causes for action. If no new information was provided, this action was called “double jeopardy” in his country. Questions had been posed and the organization needed to be given time to reply.

24. The representatives of China, the Sudan and Zimbabwe supported the representative of Cuba who stated that he made clear that his delegation was not lodging a complaint because this process had already taken place the year before. He stressed that the Committee should not dwell any longer on procedural issues but focus on the merit of the application submitted by the organization. He put forward that he submitted a specific proposal a week ago. The NGO was given five working days to respond to the questions of his delegation, but it did not. Consequently, he asked the Committee to take action to withdraw its consultative status without further delay.

25. The representative of Germany, on behalf of France and Romania, requested a vote on the Cuban proposal.

26. The Committee adopted the Cuban proposal by a roll-call vote of 8 to 4, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*
Cameroon, China, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Russian Federation, Senegal, the Sudan, Zimbabwe

*Against:*
France, Germany, Romania, the United States of America

*Abstaining:*
Colombia, Chile, India, Pakistan, Peru, Turkey
Statements in explanation of vote before the vote

27. The representative of Germany, speaking also on behalf of France and Romania, stated that they intended to vote against the proposal. They voted four years ago on the suspension of the organization and believed that no new action had been presented. The delegation of Cuba wanted aggravated action. However, they were convinced that the organization had not been given enough time to respond to the questions posed to it. At the same time, they believed that the request made by Cuba should be considered very carefully and that the Committee should not make a hasty decision.

28. The representative of the United States stated that he intended to vote against the withdrawal of status. He expressed his deep concern about the procedure used in this context. He underlined that there was no new complaint filed and no new information provided that would support a severe action being taken on an action previously acted upon.

Statement in explanation of vote after the vote

29. The representative of Pakistan stated that he abstained because he was of the view that no one should be condemned unheard. The organization should have been given time. However, he believed that the Committee should respond to any subversive activities of an NGO that acted against the principles stipulated in the Charter and in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

General statements

30. The representative of Cuba stated that the organization was not a humanitarian or charity organization nor did it promote human rights. He said that the European delegations asking for a vote once again had associated themselves with aggressive policies against a small country trying to exercise the right to choose on how to organize its own society. They were aware of the case and the links of the organization with terrorism against Cuba. He expressed his surprise that the issue continued to take up the Committee’s time.

31. The delegation of the Sudan explained that the Committee was obligated to tackle the case of the organization in the way it had. The organization’s activities were in violation with principles as set in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31. His position was one of principle.

Right of reply

32. The representative of Romania stated that his country did not associate itself with any aggressive policies against any country in the world. His delegation had voted against the proposal for purely procedural reasons. The status of the organization had been suspended and for the same reason there was a request before the Committee to withdraw its consultative status with the Council. Such action was punishing the organization twice for the same reason.
Chapter IV

Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special status with the Economic and Social Council

A. Quadrennial reports deferred from previous sessions of the Committee

33. The Committee considered quadrennial reports deferred from previous sessions under item 5 (a) of its agenda at its 27th, 29th, 33rd, 34th and 36th meetings, on 12, 13, 17, 18 and 19 May 2005. It had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General containing a compilation of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council deferred from previous sessions in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 (E/C.2/2005/CRP.10).

34. The Committee decided to defer its consideration of the quadrennial reports of the following five organizations pending response from the organizations to questions posed by the Committee:

- Centrist Democratic International
- International Press Institute
- International Service for Human Rights
- Islamic Relief
- Transnational Radical Party

Transnational Radical Party

35. At its 34th meeting, on 18 May 2005, the Committee heard the views expressed by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Viet Nam, Nguyen Tat Thanh, on the Transnational Radical Party. The representative stated that his country had consistently objected to the participation of Kok Ksor and the Montagnard Foundation under the cover of the Transnational Radical Party in meetings and conferences of the United Nations. This individual and his organization, the Montagnard Foundation, were pursuing separatists goals against Viet Nam, and in pursuit of those goals, they had resorted to violent and terrorist acts, evidence of which was presented by his delegation to the Committee at its 2004 session. This evidence had led to the Committee’s decision to suspend the consultative status of the organization with the Economic and Social Council. He regretted that the Council did not endorse the Committee’s decision. He stressed that the actions of the organization were inconsistent with its claim of being a non-violent organization since Kok Ksor was a terrorist organization and the Montagnard Foundation a separatist organization, whose agenda was to set up an “independent state of Degar” on the territory of Viet Nam, in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. His Government reaffirmed its position that because of its support of violent and terrorist activities, the Transnational Radical Party had neither moral nor legal right to participate in the Committee’s deliberations.
B. New quadrennial reports

36. The Committee considered new quadrennial reports under item 5 (b) of its agenda at its 26th to 28th and at its 36th meetings, held from 12, 13 and 19 May. It had before it memorandums of the Secretary-General containing new quadrennial reports (E/C.2/2005/2/Add.10-19). The Committee took note of the quadrennial reports of 45 organizations (see chap. I, draft decision I, subpara. (d)).

37. The Committee decided to defer its consideration of the quadrennial reports of the following nine organizations pending response from the organizations to questions posed by the Committee:

- Association of United Families International
- Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos
- International Muslim Women’s Union
- Latin American Human Rights Association
- Mediterranean Women’s Studies Center
- National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs
- National Council of Women of Thailand
- Sociologists for Women in Society
- Women’s World Summit Foundation

Chapter V

Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

38. At its 32nd meeting, on 17 May 2005, the Committee considered the following issues under agenda item 6 of its agenda.

New initiatives and partnerships

39. The Committee heard a statement by Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs who updated Members of the Committee on the initiatives developed by the Section in its efforts to develop and strengthen existing partnerships with other parts of the United Nations Secretariat as well as with non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

40. In this regard, the Committee heard Mr. Paul Hoeffel, Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Public Information. Mr. Hoeffel highlighted the partnership between his Section and the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, recalling that it was based on a commitment to serve the community of more than 3,000 NGOs working with the United Nations through both Departments. The rapid expansion of the United Nations NGO Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE) had reinforced this partnership. He also referred to the close
relationship existing between his department and the NGO Executive Committee of the Department of Public Information, the 18-member elected body of the 1,500 NGOs associated with the Department. The annual Department of Public Information conference, held every year since 1947, was another concrete partnership between the United Nations and NGOs. The fifty-eighth annual conference, to be held from 7 to 9 September 2005, entitled “Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal”, was a genuine collaboration with NGOs working with both the Department of Public Information and the Economic and Social Council. At the request of the Secretary-General, the conference was reaching out to other civil society actors who were not traditional partners of the United Nations. In this effort, the NGO Executive Committee of the Department and the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations had come together to create the Millennium +5 NGO Network, which is organizing broader civil society involvement in the consultations leading to the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly in September 2005.

41. Ms. Joan Kirby, Chair of the fifty-seventh annual NGO conference of the Department of Public Information in 2004 and representative of Temple of Understanding, an organization with special consultative status, submitted the report of the conference to the Committee for the first time. She stated that the conference had shown that there was an active concern over the fact that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were not receiving adequate support from Member States and were not well known or understood outside of the United Nations system. She reported that eight months after the conference, the awareness and support of the goals have been greatly enhanced in the civil society community thanks to the 1,800 representatives of NGOs from 66 countries.

42. Ms. Jackie Shapiro, Vice-President of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, reported on the NGO Civil Society Forum, held on 10 March 2005, in cooperation with the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Federation of United Nations Association, which had focused on achieving the MDGs. At the meeting, which gathered some 150 participants, a clear message was conveyed by high-level officials participating in the Forum emphasizing the importance in developing partnerships with civil society for achieving the Goals. The United Nations system needed to build bridges to the many civil society coalitions. In that regard, the Forum had been a major step forward in achieving that agenda.

43. Ms. Hanifa Mezoui gave a comprehensive update on the various steps taken by the Non-Governmental Organizations Section to monitor the evolving relationship between NGOs and the United Nations. She referred, in particular, to a survey sent out to 477 NGOs with roster status with the purpose of updating the information the Non-Governmental Organizations Section had on their activities. A total of 177 NGOs from 45 countries had replied. Reminders had been sent to those NGOs that had not responded. She was of the view that the Committee should reflect on ways to tackle this issue so that the United Nations could maintain contact with these organizations. She also provided the Committee with ample statistics on quadrennial reports, which NGOs in general and special consultative status needed to submit for review by the Committee. She put forward some recommendations in an attempt to resolve the backlog accumulated due to late submissions. The Committee might
wish to take action in situations where two or more consecutive reports were outstanding and could also identify a mechanism to compliment those NGOs that submitted their reports in a timely fashion. Ms. Mezoui also informed the Committee that the Section had received 300 replies to a questionnaire it had sent out to NGOs regarding their activities for the achievement of the MDGs.

44. She underlined the fact that strengthening of the relationship with NGOs required improved relationship at the national, regional and subregional levels. She pointed out that at the national level, such task had been assigned to the International Association of Social and Economic Councils and Similar Institutions, an intergovernmental organization holding observer status with the Economic and Social Council since October 2001, gathering economic and social councils of 65 countries and including the participation of China. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs honours the partnership of the organization with the Council, with its initiative to focus on the development of academic programmes and pedagogical and educational software promoting the achievement of the MDGs, in partnership with national economic and social councils, their civil society organizations and their institutions of higher education. The Chief of the Section has been working closely with the economic and social councils under this project, in collaboration with Sciences Po in Paris, and will report the outcome of this project at the next regular session of the NGO Committee in 2006.

45. Members of the Committee welcomed the increased cooperation between the Non-Governmental Organizations Sections of both the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Public Information and expressed their strong support for the increased contribution made by NGOs towards achieving the MDGs. They praised the efforts and the spirit of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which had developed various successful initiatives with the aim of strengthening its working relationship with NGOs in consultative status with the Council, convinced that this truly avant-garde project with the International Association of Social and Economic Councils and Similar Institutions will help promote the achievement of the MDGs, and above all, the preparation of the leaders of tomorrow. Members believed that the action to be taken on quadrennial reports and NGOs on the Roster should be debated in the informal working group.

Chapter VI
Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and decision 1995/304

A. Consideration of issues on the agenda of the informal working group

46. At its 28th, 34th and 36th meetings, on 13, 18 and 19 May 2005, the Committee considered the status of its informal working group. Noting that the working group had evolved into more of an intersessional informal meeting of the
Committee since its meetings were open to all members of the Committee, several members were of the view that it was perhaps not necessary to have a working group in the future. Instead, the Chair of the Committee could call for an informal meeting whenever it was necessary.

47. Responding to a request for information from the Member States, the Secretariat circulated a note on the functioning of that body, including the scope of its agenda. The working group had been established in 2000 to review the working methods of the Committee, including accreditation issues and procedures, coordination with the secretariat of the Commission on Human Rights, security issues, revision of the new application questionnaire and improving guidelines for preparing quadrennial reports. The group had also prepared an informative letter on the responsibilities of the NGOs in accrediting representatives to intergovernmental meetings.

48. In the ensuing debate, it was decided that the working group should remain. It should continue to be an open-ended working group that would meet on an as needed basis for specific purposes. It was also decided that the group would place on its agenda, for the coming year, the consideration of mechanisms to monitor NGOs with Roster status and impress on organizations failing to submit their quadrennial reports.

Adoption of a decision on the issuance of documentation for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

49. At the 28th meeting of the Committee, on 13 May, the delegation of India introduced, under agenda item 7 of the agenda, a draft decision, on “Issuance of documentation for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations”, co-sponsored by France, Colombia, the Russian Federation, Cuba, China, Cameroon, Peru, Germany and Senegal, requesting the Secretary-General to examine the causes of persistent delays in the availability of documentation to the Committee and take measures to address the problem.

50. She stated that the Committee facilitated the interaction between the United Nations and civil society. It was a unique body with unique functions. Statistics on the work of the Committee had proven its efficiency. Showing appreciation for the work of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, she underlined that adherence to the six-week rule for issuance of documents in all official languages would greatly facilitate the work of the Committee.

51. Subsequently, at its 34th meeting, on 18 May, the Committee adopted the decision without a vote.

B. Other related matters

Non-governmental organizations speaking before the 2005 session of the Economic and Social Council

52. At its 28th meeting, on 13 May, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations approved the request of eight coalitions of NGOs and 24 organizations to be heard by the Economic and Social Council at the high-level
segment of its forthcoming 2005 session (E/C.2/2005/CRP.14). These organizations are as follows:

Coalitions submitting statements to the high-level segment

All Pakistan Women’s Association (Special, 1951)
Association Tunisienne des Droits de l’Enfant (Special, 2000)
NGO Forum Coalition, NGO Civil Society Forum, New York, 10 March 2005
Oasis Open City Foundation (Special, 2003)
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur (Special, 2001) on behalf of the Committee for Social Development of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations
Temple of Understanding on behalf of the fifty-fourth annual Department of Public Information NGO Conference on the Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action (8-10 September 2004, United Nations Headquarters)
World Family Organization (General, 1948)

Organizations submitting statements to the high-level segment

African Action on Aids (Special, 2003)
All India Women’s Educational Fund Association (Special, 1999)
Center for International Rehabilitation (Special, 2004)
Comite de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agricolas (CATA) (Special, 2004)
Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations on behalf of Alliance Toward Harnessing Global Opportunities Corporation (Roster, 2004)
Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Status with the United Nations on behalf of Foundation for Research on Technology Migration and Integration (Roster, 2004)
Droit à l’énergie SOS futur (Special, 2004)
Fondation Internationale Carrefour (Special, 2003)
Fondation pour l’économie et le développement durable des régions d’Europe (Special, 2005)
Foundation for the Child and the Family (Special, 2004)
Foundation for the Social Promotion of Culture (Fundación Promoción Social de la Cultura) (General, 2004)
Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council (General, 1985)
Institute of International Social Development (Special, 2000)
International Movement ATD Fourth World (General, 1991)
Istanbul International Brotherhood and Solidarity Association (Special, 2005)
Legion of Goodwill (General, 1999)
Chapter VII
Implementation of Economic and Social Council decisions

A. Decision 2001/295

54. At its 24th, 25th and 30th meetings, on 11 and 16 May 2005, the Committee considered, under agenda item 8 (a), the requests for consultative status of organizations placed on the Roster for the purpose of the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development (see E/2005/CRP.11 and E/C.2/2005/R.4). The Committee, in its deliberations, proceeded in accordance with Council decision 2001/295, whereby the Council had decided that the non-governmental organizations referred to in its decision 1993/220 that wished to expand their participation in other fields of the Council would be considered by the Committee, and that the Committee would do so as expeditiously as possible under an item of its agenda, following the rules and provisions stipulated in Council resolution 1996/31.

55. The Committee decided to grant roster consultative status to one organization (see draft decision I, subpara. (a)). It deferred consideration of the application of the organization Eco-Accord Center for Environment and Sustainable Development, pending its response to questions posed by the Committee at its 2005 resumed session.

B. Decision 2004/212

56. At its 24th, 25th, 30th and 31st meetings, on 11 and 16 May 2005, the Committee considered, under agenda item 8 (b), the requests for consultative status of organizations contained in documents E/C.2/2005/R.5/Add.2 to Add.4 accredited to the World Summit on Sustainable Development wishing to participate in future sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development beyond the first two-year implementation cycle, in accordance with Economic and Social Council decision
2004/212. The Committee recommended consultative status to all 12 organizations under this agenda item (see chap. I, draft decision II, subpara. (a)).

Chapter VIII
Consideration of special reports

57. The Committee considered agenda item 9 at its 21st and 33rd meetings, on 9 and 17 May 2005.

A Woman’s Voice International

58. At its 21st meeting, on 9 May, the Committee had before it a complaint lodged by the Government of China against the NGO, A Woman’s Voice International. At the meeting, the representative of China stated that a representative of the organization had produced and activated a taser gun while delivering his statement before the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva. Quoting the response of the organization on the incident, which mentioned that the organization had shown the device to a United Nations official and three security guards at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, the representative of China stated that the Security Services of the United Nations in Geneva had written a letter in which no mention was made of the fact that the device had been shown to them. In fact, the Security Services confiscated the device and withdrew the badge from the representative of the organization. The representative of China therefore wondered why the guards, if they had been contacted before the meeting, would have later confiscated the device and retrieved the access badge from the representative of the NGO. In addition, China added that, according to the police authorities of Switzerland, the device was prohibited under federal law. Bringing the device into the room was an illegal act. Having underlined that the organization had not only violated the rules and regulations governing the relationship between the NGOs and the United Nations, as stipulated in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 but also the rules of the host country, the representative from China proposed that the organization be suspended for one year.

59. In the ensuing debate, during which the representatives of Pakistan, the Sudan, Cuba and the Islamic Republic of Iran supported the Chinese proposal, the representative of the United States, supported by the representative of France, was of the view that the Committee should have all the facts before it prior to taking action. He insisted that the organization should be requested to present a special report in order to clarify whether the representative of the organization had smuggled the device into the conference room of the Commission or had received permission from the United Nations Security Services to bring it into the room. The representative of China agreed to request a special report from the organization on the incident but insisted that the report be submitted before the end of the resumed session so that the Committee could take action.

60. At its 33rd meeting, on 17 May, the Committee had the report of the organization before it. The representative of China stated that his delegation was not satisfied with the report and the explanations provided by the organization and proposed to take action on the suspension of status of the organization.

61. The delegations of Cuba and the Sudan supported China’s proposal.
62. The representative of Germany believed that it was a mistake on the part of the NGO to introduce the device in the plenary hall of the Commission. Concerned over the statement of the organization that it had authority to display the device, he would prefer to have an explicit reply from the United Nations Security Services in Geneva on whether or not permission had been given to the organization. He also was of the view that, as was the case in previous incidents involving complaints lodged against NGOs, additional time should be given to the organization to gather and provide the information requested.

63. The representative of the United States asked to defer consideration of this proposal to the following session to allow the organization to respond to the questions posed by members of the Committee and to receive a response from the Secretariat of the Commission on Human Rights on the request to investigate whether the United Nations Security Services in Geneva had allowed the organization to bring the device into the conference room of the Commission. There was no consensus on the proposal. Pursuant to rule 50 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, the proposal of the United States to suspend the debate was put to a vote.

64. The proposal was rejected by a recorded roll-call vote of 10 to 2, with 5 abstentions.

In favour:
- Chile, United States of America

Against:
- China, Colombia, Cuba, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Peru, Russian Federation, Senegal, the Sudan, Zimbabwe

Abstentions:
- France, Germany, India, Romania, Turkey

65. The Committee then proceeded to a roll-call vote on the proposal made by China to suspend the consultative status of A Woman’s Voice International for one year.

66. The proposal was carried out by a vote of 15 to 1 with one abstention.

In favour:
- China, Colombia, Cuba, France, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Pakistan, Peru, Romania, Russia Federation, Senegal, the Sudan, Turkey, Zimbabwe

Against:
- United States of America

Abstentions:
- Chile

Explanation of vote before the vote

67. The delegation of Peru stated that, despite the fact that the organization was doing excellent work, it allowed one of its representatives to commit a serious mistake. In 2004, her delegation supported the suspension of an organization that brought in a sign into the meeting of the Commission on Human Rights that was
disrespectful to another delegation. Therefore, she had to support the suspension of this organization in order to remain consistent.

**Explanation of vote after the vote**

68. The delegations of Germany and France stated that they voted in favour of the suspension. Their votes reflected the seriousness of the event and the responsibility that the organization had. The position taken did not reflect on the work of the NGO.

69. The representative of India stated that it voted in favour of the suspension given the fact that Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 guiding the relationship of NGOs with the United Nations was very clear. The import of a device, which might or might not have been cleared by the United Nations Security Services, was not in the purview of the relevant rules. She therefore believed that a violation did take place. Her delegation’s vote did not reflect on the work of the organization, which was good. She would have been ready to defer action on the process to the next session which was why she abstained on the motion for deferment.

70. The representative of Pakistan stated that he supported the Chinese proposal because the action of the organization amounted to a breach of security and violation of the rules and procedures of the United Nations and the host country.

**Federation of Associations for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights**

71. At its 21st meeting, on 9 May, the Committee heard a complaint from the Government of Turkey against the Federation of Associations for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights. The organization had made a written statement at the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights in which it referred to a certain part of the territory of Turkey as “Northern Kurdistan”.

72. The representative of Turkey stated that NGOs should abide at all times by the principles governing the establishment and the nature of their consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as stipulated in Council resolution 1996/31, and should use the proper United Nations terminology as for the names of countries and territories. The representative of Turkey, with a view to avoiding the repetition of similar incidents, requested the Committee to send a letter via the Secretariat to the NGO concerned, reminding of its obligations and responsibilities.

73. The Committee decided to send a letter to the Federation of Associations for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights, as requested by the representative of Turkey.

**Transnational Radical Party**

74. Also at its 21st meeting on 9 May, the Committee had before it a complaint lodged by the Islamic Republic of Iran against the Transnational Radical Party, an organization in general consultative status with the Council, regarding a written statement circulated by the organization at the sixty-first session of the Commission on Human Rights. Following consultation between the secretariat of the Commission on Human Rights, the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, the Economic and Social Council secretariat and the Non-Governmental
Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the organization decided to withdraw its written statement (see E/C.2/2005/R.3).

75. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued the following statement:

“Pursuant to our letter to this august Committee dated 20 April 2005, and with reference to the letter of Transnational Radical Party of 5 May 2005 addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights by which the above-mentioned NGO withdrew its statement contained in document E/CN.4/2005/NGO/260, we have decided not to pursue our complaint against the said NGO at this juncture. However, we would like to reiterate our right to bring the matter to the attention of this Committee for any appropriate action if any similar move were made by the same NGO or any other NGOs regarding the same issue.”

Chapter IX

General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network

76. At its 32nd meeting, on 17 May 2005, the Chief of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Ms. Hanifa Mezoui, presented the progress report of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE). She introduced the various projects executed during the year since the 2004 regular session of the Committee.

77. Going back to 2001 when the Regional Network was first launched in Brazil, she reminded the Committee that the goals of the Network were to strengthen the capacity of civil society; enhance its contribution to the implementation of the MDGs at the local, national, regional and international levels and promote partnership initiatives, programmes and projects between the United Nations, Governments, civil society, the private sector and the donor community.

78. The Informal Regional Network is now established in various parts of the world, including Tunisia, Mauritania, China, India, Japan, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Romania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Spain and Canada.

79. Among the major projects successfully organized or co-sponsored by the Network during 2004-2005, she mentioned the joint initiative of the United Nations Regional Coordinator, the World Family Organization and the Network in organizing the World Family Summit in Sanya, China, in December 2004, which gathered over 300 participants.

80. The international conference on “Gender Mainstreaming and the MDGs”, organized by All Pakistan Women’s Association, an organization in special consultative status and supported by the UN-NGO-IRENE, in Islamabad in March 2005 was another important undertaking of the Network.

81. Other projects included the establishment of the Network in Azerbaijan in November 2004 in cooperation with NAYORA, an organization that recently joined the Economic and Social Council NGO family, which works in close cooperation
with the Foundation for Social Promotion of Culture and READI, two organizations that contributed to the Conference on “Migration, Microfinance and Education and the role of Euro-Arab Women” held in Madrid in September 2004.

82. Ms. Mezoui explained that during these meetings and events, organizations formulated declarations and proposals focusing on achieving the MDGs, which will be read at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in June 2005.

83. Great progress has been made over the year in reaching NGOs at the grassroots level. The information and training sessions provided to them enhanced the interactive exchange among NGOs in their respective regions and between NGOs and the United Nations. A number of innovative initiatives led to the promotion of coordination and integrated activities at all levels to generate partnership initiatives, projects and programmes between Governments, civil society, the private sector and the United Nations.

84. Several NGOs in status with the Economic and Social Council were commended, including the Friends Society in Social Service, the Nour Foundation, the All India Women’s Education Fund Association, the All India Movement for SEVA and Medecins sans Frontières, who mobilized people, equipment and funding to assist in the South-Asian tsunami relief efforts in 2005.

85. Member States expressed their appreciation for the work accomplished by the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Chapter X
Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2006 session of the Committee

86. The Committee considered agenda item 11 at its 37th meeting, on 20 May. It had before it the draft provisional agenda for its 2006 session, which was contained in an informal paper.

87. At its 37th meeting, the Committee decided to recommend to the Council the following dates for the sessions in 2006: 19 to 27 January for its 2006 regular session and 10 to 19 May for its resumed 2006 session (see chap. I, draft decision V, subpara. (a)).

88. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the provisional agenda for its 2006 session for submission to the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, draft decision V, subpara. (b)).

Chapter XI
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

89. The Committee held its resumed 2005 session from 5 to 20 May 2005. The Committee held 21 meetings.
B. Attendance

90. The session was attended by the 19 members of the Committee.

91. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations, observers for two non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for non-governmental organizations also attended. The list of participants is contained in annex I to the present report.

92. At its 2005 session, the Committee heard eight representatives of non-governmental organizations, who were given the opportunity to respond to questions raised by the Committee. The additional information provided by the representatives facilitated the debate and the work of the Committee in taking its decisions.

C. Agenda

93. At its 17th meeting, on 5 May, the Committee adopted the provisional agenda for its resumed 2005 session (E/C.2/2005/1).

94. At the same meeting, the Committee approved its organization of work, as orally revised.

D. Documentation

95. The list of documents before the Committee at its resumed 2005 session is contained in annex II to the present report.

Chapter XII

Adoption of the report of the Committee at its resumed 2005 session

96. At its 37th meeting, on 20 May 2005, the Committee adopted the draft report as contained in document E/C.2/2005/L.3, and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report, in consultation with the members of the Committee, as appropriate.
Annex I

List of participants

Members

Cameroon     Martin Belinga-Eboutou, Iya Tidjani, Catherine Mahouve Same, Naomie Akono, Georges Bekono, Abessolo Abessolo
Chile      Cristián Rehren, María Aída Rodríguez, Carla Serazzi, Alessandra Rossi
China      Xie Bohua, Li Xiaomei, Sun Mingji
Colombia    Carlos Eduardo Jaramillo, Pedro Augustin Roa, Beatriz Patti Londoño
Côte d’Ivoire    Guillaume Bailey-Niagri, Lucie Koita Fanta, Serges Gba
Cuba      Luis Amoros Nuñez, Jorge Cumberbatch Miguén, Javier Domínguez Martínez, Esperanza Luzbert Gonzalez
France     Philippe Bertoux, Caroline Belot, Yuan Chatila
Germany    Martin Thümmel, Anna-Dorothea Görg, Natascha Ruhenstroth-Bauer
India      Nirupam Sen, A. Gopinathan, Mukta D. Tomar
Iran (Islamic Republic of)  Paimané Hastaie, Mohsen Emadi
Pakistan   Bilal Hayee, Imran Ahmed Siddique
Peru       Romy Tincopa
Romania    Octavian Stamate
Russian Federation   Vladimir Vertogradov, Anddrei Nikiforov, Vladimir Zheglov
Senegal    Malick Thierno-Sow, Leysa Faye
Sudan      Ilham I. Ahmed, Hassan Hamid Hassan
Turkey     Serhat Aksen
United States of America  Mariano Ceinos-Cox, Peggy Kerry, Jennifer McCann, Joseph Bracken
Zimbabwe  Meshack Kitchen
States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Algeria, Bangladesh, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Serbia and Montenegro, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Viet Nam

Non-member States represented by observers

Holy See, Palestine

Intergovernmental organizations

Organization of the Islamic Conference

Specialized agencies

International Labour Organization
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
### Annex II

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