SECOND REGULAR SESSION

Item 20 of the provisional agenda
(GC(II)/35)

RULES ON THE CONSULTATIVE STATUS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
WITH THE AGENCY

Draft resolution submitted by the Board of Governors

1. In accordance with the recommendations contained in the resolution on the relations of the Agency with non-governmental organizations which the General Conference adopted on 23 October 1957 (1), the Board of Governors submits for the approval of the General Conference the rules which it has drawn up on the consultative status of non-governmental organizations with the Agency and which are set forth in the annex to the draft resolution given below.

2. It will be noted from Rule 3(e) that the Board intends to set up a Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. The functions of this Committee are outlined in the appendix to this document.

Draft resolution

GRANT OF CONSULTATIVE STATUS TO NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

The General Conference,

Having regard to its resolution of 23 October 1957 on the relations of the Agency with non-governmental organizations (1),

Approves the rules on the consultative status of non-governmental organizations with the Agency which the Board of Governors has drawn up at its recommendation and which are set forth in the annex to this resolution.

(1) GC.1(S)/RES/12.
ANNEX

RULES ON THE CONSULTATIVE STATUS OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE AGENCY

I. Nature of Consultative Arrangements

1. The objectives of arrangements for consultation should be, on the one hand, to enable the Agency to secure expert information or advice from organizations having special competence in the field in which such information or advice is required, and to promote knowledge of the principles and activities of the Agency and, on the other hand, to enable organizations which represent important groups whose work is relevant to that of the Agency to express their views. The arrangements made should not be such as to overburden the Agency.

II. Principles and Conditions to be Applied in Granting Consultative Status

2. In order to achieve the objectives set forth in paragraph 1 the following principles and conditions shall be applied by the Agency when considering whether to grant consultative status to a non-governmental organization:

(a) The work of the organization shall be directly related to that of the Agency, and the organization shall be able to make a significant contribution to the Agency's work;

(b) The aims and purposes of the organization shall be in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Agency;

(c) The organization shall undertake to support the work of the Agency and promote knowledge of its principles and activities, in accordance with the organization's aims and purposes and the nature and scope of its own competence and activities;

(d) The organization shall be of recognized standing, having an established headquarters, an executive officer and a policy-making body, and shall have authority to speak for its members through its authorized representatives; and

(e) The organization shall be an international non-governmental organization of world-wide or regional scope, except that consultative status may be granted to a national non-governmental organization after consultation and with the consent of the Member State concerned if the activities of the national organization are not covered by an international non-governmental organization and if the national organization has special competence on which the Agency wishes to draw.

III. Consultation with the General Conference and the Board of Governors

3. An organization to which consultative status is granted shall be entitled to the following privileges and facilities:

(a) The provisional agenda of each session of the General Conference shall be communicated to the organization at the same time as it is communicated to Member States of the Agency;

(b) The organization shall be invited to be represented by an observer at all sessions of the General Conference. The observer may be accompanied by a reasonable number of advisors. The observer and his advisors shall be entitled to attend all public meetings of the General Conference;
(c) The organization may designate one authorized observer to attend public meetings of the Board of Governors. The observer may be accompanied by a reasonable number of advisors;

(d) The Director General shall circulate to the members of an organ of the Agency any written statement submitted to him in one or more working languages of the Agency by the organization, if he considers it relevant to the work of that organ, if he has had an opportunity to suggest any changes he deems appropriate, and if the organization has taken account of such suggestions, provided that such a statement is of not more than 2,000 words.

(e) An authorized representative of the organization may make a brief oral statement at a public meeting of a Main Committee of the General Conference after consultation with the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to be established by the Board and with the agreement of the Main Committee concerned. An organization wishing to make such an oral statement shall submit a written request to the Director General not later than forty-eight hours after the adoption of the agenda of the organ to which the statement is to be made. The Director General shall refer the request to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and the Committee shall make recommendations to the Main Committee concerned regarding the request and the item of the agenda under which the statement should be made;

(f) An authorized representative of the organization may make oral statements at a public meeting of any other committee or subsidiary body of the General Conference if that Committee or subsidiary body so decides; and

(g) The granting of a request by the organization to make an oral statement before a public meeting of the Board of Governors shall be subject to the rules of procedure of the Board(2).

(2) Rule 15 and 50 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Board of Governors provide:

 Rule 15 - Provisional agenda: "The Director General shall prepare in consultation with the Chairman, or in his absence or disability, the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman, the provisional agenda for meetings of the Board. The provisional agenda shall include:

(a) All items which the Board has previously decided to include in the provisional agenda;

(b) All items referred to the Board by the General Conference;

(c) All items the inclusion of which is requested by any Member of the Agency;

(d) All items which may be referred to the Board through the Director General in accordance with the relationship agreement between the Agency and the United Nations;

(e) Reports of the Director General, including reports concerning action taken on decisions and recommendations of the Board;

(f) Such other items as the Director General shall consider it necessary to include, after consultation with the Chairman, or in his absence or disability, the Vice-Chairman acting as Chairman; and

(g) Other items required by the Statute."

Rule 50 - "Representation of States, Organizations and Individuals: The Board may invite any State which is a Member of the Agency but not a Member of the Board, any State which is not a Member of the Agency, any specialized agency, other inter-governmental organization or non-governmental organization, or any individual to be represented or to attend any meeting of the Board."
4. The Director General shall be authorized, within the means at his disposal, to provide an organization to which consultative status is granted, facilities which include:

(a) Prompt distribution to the organization of such non-restricted documents of the Agency as he may deem appropriate;
(b) Access to any document service for the press at the headquarters of the Agency;
(c) Use of the library or libraries of the Agency; and
(d) Appropriate seating arrangements at any meetings which the organization is entitled or invited to attend and facilities for obtaining appropriate documents during such meetings.

IV. Consultation with other meetings called under the auspices of the Agency

5. The Director General may invite an organization to which consultative status is granted to attend any meetings convened by the Agency, other than meetings of the General Conference and the Board of Governors, their committees and other subsidiary bodies. Such meetings may include technical conferences, meetings of experts, seminars, symposia and colloquia. Subject to any decision of the Board of Governors, the privileges and facilities accorded to an organization attending such a meeting shall conform, as far as appropriate, to the privileges and facilities set forth in Rules 3 and 4 of those Rules.

V. Consultation with the Secretariat

6. A non-governmental organization to which consultative status has been granted may consult with appropriate members of the Secretariat on matters of mutual interest. Such consultation may take place at the request of the non-governmental organization concerned or at the request of the Director General.

7. The Director General shall designate a liaison officer with whom the organization may consult and with whom arrangements may be made for consultation with other members of the Secretariat on matters of mutual interest.

8. Subject to the relevant financial regulations, the Director General may request a non-governmental organization to which consultative status has been granted and which has special competence in a particular field to undertake specific studies or investigations or to prepare specific papers.

VI. Application for and withdrawal of consultative status

9. A non-governmental organization wishing to obtain consultative status shall submit its application to the Director General who shall refer the application to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations of the Board of Governors. The application shall be accompanied by the following documents and shall include the following information:

(a) The text of the constitution of the organization;
(b) The names and addresses of its senior officers;
(c) Particulars of its composition including the names of any national organizations affiliated to it;

(d) A copy of its latest annual or periodic report; and

(o) The programme of the activities of the organization together with a descriptive statement of the extent to which the purposes of the organization relate to those of the Agency.

10. The organization shall provide at any time further information which may be requested by the Director General, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations or the Board on the matters referred to in sub-paragraphs (a), (b), (c), (d), and (o) of Rule 9 of those Rules.

11. After consideration of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the application of the organization, the Board shall decide whether consultative status shall be granted to the organization.

12. The Board may decide to withdraw consultative status from an organization if it persistently or flagrantly violates the obligations it has accepted in entering into consultative status with the Agency.

13. The Director General shall submit annually to the General Conference a list of the organizations to which consultative status has been granted.
The Board of Governors intends to set up a Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations in order to give effect to the rules to govern the Agency's relations with non-governmental organizations which the Board has established.

The functions of the Committee will be:

(a) To consider applications from non-governmental organizations for the grant of consultative status and to make recommendations thereon to the Board;

(b) To review from time to time the list of non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Agency;

(c) To consult with non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Agency on matters within their competence;

(d) To make recommendations to the General Conference concerning requests by such organizations for permission to present brief oral statements at public meetings of the Committees or other subsidiary bodies of the General Conference; and

(e) To consider any other matters concerning non-governmental organizations that may be referred to it by the General Conference, the Board or the Director General.