

## **Joint NGO statement for meeting between the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs and accredited NGOs.**

Thank you Mr. Chair

I am delivering this statement in the name of 258 NGOs. We welcome that the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs has convened this meeting with ECOSOC-accredited NGOs, and we look forward in the future to seeing a similar meeting take place before each session of the Committee, as required by paragraph 61(a) of resolution 1996/31.

We consider the relationship between the UN and NGOs to be one that should evolve in the direction of safeguarding and encouraging the right of NGOs to participate in UN processes.

The Committee on NGOs plays a vital role in ensuring NGOs that work in line with 'the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations' have access to UN spaces.

However, we are concerned by practices of the Committee that have inappropriately blocked the participation of some NGOs, in particular human rights NGOs, through procedural tactics including perpetual and repetitive questioning of applicants. In addition, we are deeply concerned by the Committee having acted in direct contradiction of the procedural rights of NGOs explicitly or implicitly required under resolution 1996/31 providing them with an opportunity to respond (as required under paragraph 56) to initiatives to close applications or withdraw accreditation. In recent times, the Committee has indefensibly denied some applicants and ECOSOC-accredited organisations the opportunity to defend themselves against accusations of terrorist sympathies. Indeed, certain actions of the Committee have been characterized by some States, UN officials and NGOs as constituting a form of reprisal against NGOs seeking to cooperate with the UN.

We encourage the Committee on NGOs to consider the following changes to ensure that NGO applications for ECOSOC accreditation and other matters are considered in an objective, fair and expeditious manner:

The Committee should provide guidelines explaining the grounds on which applications for accreditation are assessed. These would assist both Committee members in the questioning of applicants and applicants in understanding Committee processes. The process of developing such guidance or guidelines should be open to all interested stakeholders including representatives of civil society, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant Special Procedures.

Member States of the NGO Committee should ensure that NGOs always have the opportunity to respond to any objection to their obtaining consultative status, as explicitly required by resolution 1996/31, paragraph 15, and similarly to respond to any intention to suspend or withdraw status.

The Committee should allow applicants the right to participate in the daily Q&A sessions via videoconferencing, thus providing the opportunity for immediate responses to members' concerns and speeding up the process of accreditation.

The Committee should allow one or more NGO speakers to make a general statement to the Committee on NGOs at the start of every open session, as per many historical precedents including most recently in June 2016.

In addition, Observer States should attend NGO Committee sessions and engage actively on behalf of NGO applicants, including in making statements.

Thank you Mr. Chair.

**ECOSOC-accredited NGOs:**

Access Now

Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights

ADC Memorial

African Hope Committee Inc.

African Trade Center

African Views

Agricultural Missions, Inc.

Al-Haq

Alkarama Foundation

Alliance for Democracy in Laos

Al Mezan Center For Human Rights

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS)

Amis des Etrangers au Togo (ADET)

Amnesty International

Arabic Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI)

Article 19

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development

Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC)

Asociación Española para el Derecho Internacional de los Derechos Humanos

Associação Projecto Criar

Association Congolaise des Femmes Diplômées des Universités Association de Solidarité d'Aide et Action

Enfance Mali - Jiguiya Ton

Association du developpement et de la promotion de Droit de l'Homme

Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

Association for the Prevention of Torture

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

Association of War Affected Women

Association of World Citizens

Australasian Centre for Human Rights and Health Inc.

Baptist World Alliance

Barnabas Charity Outreach

Brot für die Welt: Bread for the World

Bytes For All, Pakistan

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies  
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network  
Casa Generalizia della Societa del Sacro Cuore  
Center of Civil Initiatives Support  
Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR)  
Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy  
Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)  
Child Rights Connect  
Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)  
CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation  
COC Netherlands  
Collectif Sénégalais des Africaines pour la Promotion de l'Education Relative à l'Environnement  
Community Legal Centres Queensland  
Concepts of Truth, Inc.  
Conectas Direitos Humanos  
Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO)  
Congregation of the Mission  
Congregations of St. Joseph  
CREDO ACTION  
DefendDefenders (the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project)  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority  
Dianova International  
Diligent Care for Creative Intelligence Development (DICIDE)  
Ecoforum of NGOs of Uzbekistan  
Edmund Rice International  
Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights  
Equal Rights for Persons with Disabilities International, Inc.  
Families of the Missing  
Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit (COC Nederland)  
Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas, Inc.  
FIACAT (International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture)  
Freedom House  
Freedom Now  
Forum for Women and Development (FOKUS)  
Front Line Defenders  
Fundacion Estudio e Investigacion de la Mujer  
Geneva for Human Rights  
Girls Education Mission International  
Global Aid Hand  
Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights  
Global Welfare Association (GLOWA)  
Graduate Women International  
Gray Panthers  
Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America  
GROoTs  
Human Rights Advocates  
Human Rights Council of Australia

Human Rights House Foundation  
Human Rights Now  
Human Rights Sanrakshan Sansthaa  
Humanists UK  
IDHEAS Litigio Estratégico en Derechos Humanos  
Instituto Qualivida  
International Alliance of Women  
International Commission of Jurists  
International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW)  
International Council of Women  
International Federation for Home Economics  
International Federation of Business and Professional Women  
International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers  
International Federation on Ageing  
International Federation of Women Lawyers, Nigeria  
International Humanist and Ethical Union  
International Institute for Child Protection  
Institut Jules-Destrée (The Destree Institute)  
International Justice Resource Center  
International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA)  
International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)  
International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social & Economic Development (IMAECSED)  
International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA)  
International Organisation of Good Templars  
International Partnership for Human Rights  
International Planned Parenthood Federation South Asia Region (SAR)  
International Presentation Association  
International Service for Human Rights  
International Society of Doctors for the Environment  
Inwelle Study and Resource Centre  
Irene Menakaya Schools  
Jammu Kashmir Welfare Alliance  
JANASADHANA  
Jubilee Campaign USA  
Katahati Institute  
Labrique  
Le Projet Imagine  
Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany (LSVD)  
The Light Millennium  
Ligue pour la solidarité congolaise  
Manhattan Multicultural Counseling, Inc.  
Medical Women's Association of Nigeria  
Medical Women's International Association  
MINBYUN-Lawyers for a Democratic Society International Solidarity Committee  
The Mongolian Gender Equality Center  
Moremi Initiative for Women's Leadership in Africa  
Mother of Hope Cameroon

Muslims for Progressive Values  
Nazra for Feminist Studies  
National Council of Women of the United States, Inc.  
National Space Society  
Network of Rural Women Producers Trinidad and Tobago  
New Future Foundation Inc.  
Norwegian Human Rights Fund  
Ohaha Family Foundation  
Okogun Odigie Safewomb International Foundation  
Omega Research Foundation  
OSMTH Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem  
Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand)  
Pan Pacific and Southeast Asia Women's Association (PPSEAWA)  
Peace Brigades International Switzerland  
Project 1948  
RAFUDESC, Benin  
Red Educación Popular entre Mujeres America Latina y el Caribe (REPEM)  
Refugee Council of Australia  
Regional Public Foundation Assistance for the Elderly "Dobroe Delo"  
Réseau International des Droits Humains (RIDH)  
RFSL, the Swedish Federation for LGBTQ Rights  
ROADDH/WAHRDN  
Rwenzori Center for Research and Advocacy  
Sahkar Social Welfare Association  
Save Cambodia  
Schools Without Borders  
SERVITAS Cameroon  
She Wins Mexico  
Sisters of Charity Federation  
Society for the Advancement of Global Understanding  
Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries  
Society to Heighten Awareness of Women and Children Abuse  
Sorooptimist International  
The Southern Diaspora Research and Development Center (SDRDC)  
South Sudanese Christian Women Mission for Peace  
Stree Mukti Sanghatana  
Syrian Network for Human rights (SNHR)  
Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM)  
Tabernacle Worship and Prayer Ministries  
To Love Children Educational International Foundation  
TRIAL International  
Union of International Association  
United Religions Initiative  
United Methodist Church--General Board of Church and Society (UMC-GBCS)  
Unitarian Universalist Association United Nations Office  
Unspoken Smiles Foundation  
USA Mali Charitable Association of NYC  
Validity Foundation

Widows for Peace through Democracy  
World Federalist Movement-Institute for Global Policy  
Women Federation for World Peace  
Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC)  
Women's Intercultural Network  
Women's International Zionist Organisation (WIZO)  
World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)  
World Union for Progressive Judaism  
YWCA

**Non-ECOSOC-accredited NGOs:**

Academia Mexicana de Derecho Internacional  
Action Based Leadership Empowerment (ABLE-NGO)  
Action pour l'Education et la Promotion de la Femme  
African Heritage Women In Education and Empowerment (AHWEE)  
African Programme for the Economic and Social Development (PADES)  
Akahata A.C.  
Anchor of Hope, Inc.  
Bahrain Centre for Human Rights  
BDS  
Black Women's Blueprint  
BlueLink Foundation  
Centro de Justicia y Paz  
CFC  
CHESA Tanzania  
Child Rights International Network (CRIN)  
Coalition of African Lesbians  
Community Empowerment for Rehabilitation and Development (CEFoRD-South Sudan)  
Congo Action Now  
Colonie des Pionniers du Développement (CPD)  
Collectif des femmes pour la protection de l'environnement et de l'enfant  
Danish Refugee Council  
Darabbar Sahitya Sansad  
DMARCO Organization  
East Timor and Indonesia Action Network (ETAN)  
EMPOWERHOUSE  
Facilitate Global  
Family Empowerment and Youth Re-orientation Path-initiative (FEYReP)  
Fontaine-ISOKO  
Gender and Energy Network, Ghana  
Global Bersih  
Global Peace and Development Organization  
Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR)  
Guyana RainBow Foundation  
Helpline Foundation for the Needy Abuja

Helsinki Citizens' Assembly – Vanadzor  
Immigrant Council of Ireland  
Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights  
International Association of World Peace Advocates  
International Centre for Justice and Human Rights  
International Dalit Solidarity Network  
Jammu Kashmir Human Rights Movement  
Jerusalem Center for Women  
Journalists and Writers Foundation  
Kazakhstan International Bureau for Human Rights and the Rule of Law  
KULU-Women and Development, Denmark  
Lulu Community Empowerment Project  
Management Consultancy and Training Services (MCTS)  
Migrantes  
Moroccan Association for Women's Rights  
Movement of Women and Girls for Peace and Security in Burundi  
Namibia Diverse Women's Association (NDWA)  
National Rural Women's Coalition (Australia)  
Nkomo Organization Inc.  
Paramount Young Women Initiative  
Peaceever TV International Media Group Inc.  
Plataforma Internacional contra la Impunidad  
Professional Women Empowered  
Project on Organizing, Development, Education and Research (PODER)  
Project Swarajya  
Public Verdict Foundation, Russia  
Oghoghon Global  
Oyu Tolgoi Watch  
Refugee Law Project  
Sakhi Charchowghi Trust  
Sexual Rights Initiative  
Sijelei Women and Youth Empowerment  
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Solace Initiative  
Steps Without Borders NGO  
Sustainable Fish Farming Initiative (SFFI)  
The Tibet Bureau  
THOMI AFRICA  
Transgender Europe  
UgoSunday Foundation  
Unión Latinoamericana de Mujeres (ULAM)  
Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights  
Women Advancement and Youth Research Foundation  
The Voice of Libyan Women  
Women4nonviolence in Peace+Conflict Zones  
Women's Freedom Forum, Inc.  
World Council of Peoples for the United Nations  
World Uyghur Congress

Yemen Organization For Defending Rights & Democratic Freedom  
Youth Women for Action  
Zimbabwe Election Support Network  
Zonta International