

ECOSOC Decision 2002/225

Establishment of the general voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations NGO Informal Regional Network

At its 34th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2002, the Economic and Social Council, recalling the provisions of its resolutions 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and 1999/34 of 28 July 1999, emphasizing the importance of non-governmental organizations worldwide in achieving a just, balanced, effective and genuine involvement from all regions of the world, and in their evolving relationship with the United Nations; reaffirming the important role of the United Nations NGO Informal Regional Network in achieving NGO capacity-building to take part in United Nations work, support the coalition of NGOs and disseminate the work of the Council; stressing the vital part played by the regional networks in strengthening the partnership between the United Nations, NGOs and subregional and regional coordinators of the informal network; underlining the need to serve and facilitate communication and exchange among and between regions through cooperation and collaborative activities; recognizing the need for human and financial resources and technical assistance in order to ensure increased participation of NGOs from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, and to work to ensure parity and an equitable and representative NGO presence and contributions to United Nations goals, including development goals as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;¹ and fully recognizing the need to ensure the long-term viability of such an undertaking at its very initiation:

(a) Requests the Secretary-General to establish a general voluntary trust fund, on the basis of the terms of reference contained in the annex to the present decision, in order to achieve those aims and ensure an equal development of activities for NGOs in consultative status with the Council in all regions through the equitable division of available resources;

(b) Requests the Secretary-General to submit, for the review of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations at its annual sessions, a report on the implementation of the present decision.

Annex

United Nations NGO Informal Regional Network: terms of reference

Implementation of the United Nations NGO² Informal Regional Network will encompass, inter alia, the following activities:

- Establishing and managing an ongoing, regularly updated technology-based system designed to provide access to information and enable interactive exchange among NGOs

¹ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

² For the purposes of the present terms of reference, “NGOs” refers to NGOs in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

regionally and interregionally, and between NGOs worldwide and the United Nations, through the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat.

- Providing training for network managers at the subregional levels and network users, as required.
- Designing and conducting capacity-building workshops, seminars and training programmes to strengthen NGO capabilities for effective contribution, at both operational and policy levels.
- Development and production of print and electronic training materials.
- Producing recurrent and occasional publications, such as newsletters, reports and analytical papers, to complement the electronic information dissemination programme and to ensure universal accessibility.
- Development and maintenance of comprehensive database support.
- Organizing national, subregional and regional conferences/meetings, together with government, intergovernmental bodies, the United Nations and NGOs, with a view to facilitating and enabling an environment conducive to the development of an active and effective NGO sector.
- Convening annual planning and coordination meetings to bring together regional coordinators, informal network partners, the NGO Section and all other entities concerned with the implementation and management of the Network.
- Creating opportunities for NGOs to interact by, for example, convening meetings, organizing exchange visits or study tours in order to promote cooperation, sharing of resources and collaborative action among network participants.
- Responsibility for overall backstopping, oversight and development activities is to be undertaken by the NGO Section.
- Design and maintenance of a system of regular needs assessment, monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the Network is developing and functioning equitably, efficiently and effectively at both the regional and global levels.