

Decision PC.1/2. Participation of, and consultation with, observers at the sessions of the Preparatory Committee

At its 1st meeting, on 27 August 2007, the Preparatory Committee decided, without a vote, to apply the following criteria and practices for participation by non-governmental organizations at the sessions of the Preparatory Committee:

(a) The mechanism established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1996/31 of 26 July 1996, and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, shall be the framework for participation of, consultations with, and accreditation of non-governmental organizations, while ensuring their most effective contribution;

(b) Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council are invited to participate fully in all the sessions of the Preparatory Committee, pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31;

(c) In the case of non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, but accredited to participate in the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and its follow-up mechanisms:

(i) The Secretariat will send to Member States an updated list of non-governmental organizations not in consultative status, but accredited to participate in the World Conference and its follow-up mechanisms;

(ii) Non-governmental organizations in this category shall be invited to participate fully at the sessions of the Preparatory Committee, unless there are observations made by Member States within 14 days from the date they receive the note verbale with the list of non-governmental organizations mentioned above. The standard process established in Council resolution 1996/31 will be applied;

(iii) In the event that a Government raises questions concerning the accreditation of a non-governmental organization, the final decision shall be taken by the Preparatory Committee, in accordance with the standard process established in Council resolution 1996/31;

(d) In the case of non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and not accredited to participate in the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance and its follow-up mechanisms:

(i) Non-governmental organizations interested in the processes for the first time and wishing to participate in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee should submit applications to the Secretariat, in accordance with the criteria established in Council resolution 1996/31;

(ii) The Secretariat shall post on the website of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the procedures and relevant forms regarding the participation of non-governmental organizations;

- (iii) The Secretariat shall continue to review all applications received to ensure that they meet the requirements established in Council resolution 1996/31;
- (iv) Where non-governmental organizations have had their consultative status withdrawn or suspended under paragraph 57 (a) or (b) of Council resolution 1996/31, the Secretariat shall include information as to the reasons for withdrawal or suspension including the date of the decision, in the list circulated to all Member States;
- (v) The Secretariat shall send to Member States, on a periodic basis, the updated list of applications received. Member States may submit comments on any of the applications in the list within 14 days from receipt of the above-mentioned list. The comments of Member States shall be communicated to the non-governmental organization concerned, which will be offered the opportunity to respond;
- (vi) In cases where the Secretariat believes, on the ground of the information provided, in accordance with Council resolution 1996/31 that the non-governmental organization has established its competence and relevance of its activities with regards to the work of the Preparatory Committee, it shall recommend to the Preparatory Committee that the non-governmental organization be accredited. In cases where the Secretariat does not recommend the granting of accreditation, it shall make available to the Preparatory Committee its justifications for not doing so;
- (vii) In the event that a Member State raises questions concerning the accreditation of a non-governmental organization, the final decision on such cases shall be taken by the Preparatory Committee in accordance with the standard process established in Council resolution 1996/31;

(e) Indigenous peoples' representatives that are accredited in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1995/32 of 25 July 1995, and who express willingness to participate, shall be accredited to the sessions of the Preparatory Committee. Other interested indigenous peoples' representatives can also be accredited, following standard procedures established under Council resolution 1996/31;

(f) Participation of national human rights institutions in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee shall be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005, while ensuring the most effective contribution of these institutions;

(g) The sessions of the Preparatory Committee are also open to participation by other observers such as:

- (i) Entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers at the sessions and in the work of the General Assembly;
- (ii) Intergovernmental organizations having received a standing invitation to participate as observers at the sessions and in the work of the General Assembly;

- (iii) Specialized agencies;
- (iv) Associate member of regional commissions;
- (v) United Nations organs, bodies, programmes and relevant mechanisms, including human rights bodies and mechanisms.