1. The present statement is made in accordance with rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council. The present statement will also be distributed to Member States.

2. Should the Council adopt draft decision VII, additional programme budget appropriations for the year 2025, amounting to $311,500 (recurrent), including the 4 posts (1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 2 GS (OL)), and $15,200 (non-recurrent) would be requested in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC adopted during its 2024 session.

3. An additional amount of $42,700 under section 36, Staff assessment, would also be requested in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of ECOSOC adopted during its 2024 session, to be offset by an equivalent amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

4. The recurrent resource requirements, including the 4 posts (1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 2 GS (OL)), would be requested annually from 2026 in the context of the respective proposed programme budget.
Annex: Oral statement in connection with draft decision VII entitled “Improving the work of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations” contained in the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 2024 session (E/2024/32/(Part II)

1. The present statement is made in accordance with rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council. The present statement will also be distributed to Member States.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the draft decision, the Economic and Social Council would:

   (a) Decide to suspend the regular and resumed sessions for two working days between the fifth and sixth working day, and to establish a deadline for applicant responses to be received by the Secretariat and made available to the Committee within a formal session by 17.00 Eastern Time on the day before the sixth working day of the session, in order for the applicant for the responses to be reconsidered during the same session (OP. 2);

   (b) Decide that the Committee will resume its work within the informal working group to consider options to improve its methods of work, including inter alia the interactive dialogue, questionnaires and procedures for the review of applications, and that the Committee will report its recommendations to the Economic and Social Council at its Management Segment, preferably in 2025 for consideration (OP. 3);

   (c) Request the Secretary General to increase his support to the Non-governmental Organizations section of the Secretariat in order to fulfil the Committee’s mandate as set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, and requests the Secretary General, in the context of his next budget proposal, to identify options in order to ensure this (OP. 4);

   (d) Decide that the Committee will hold annually consultations with organizations in consultative status, in a manner that ensures equitable geographical representation, as set out in paragraph 61 (a) (OP. 5).

3. In order to implement the decision and request contained in the draft decision, additional recurrent resource requirements would be required under Section 9, Economic and Social Affairs and Section 36, Staff assessment, beginning in 2025.

Section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management

4. With regards to operative paragraph 5 of the draft decision, as indicated in paragraph 65 of the report of the Committee on Non-
Governmental Organizations on its 2024 resumed session, in the absence of the format and modalities for the annual consultations, the Secretariat will not be able to estimate the potential costs implications of the requirements of the consultations. When the format, scope and modalities of the annual consultations are determined, the Secretary-General would assess the budgetary implications and advise the Economic and Social Council in accordance with rule 31 of the Rules of Procedure of the Economic and Social Council. Furthermore, once modalities are known, in accordance with established practice, the dates of the annual consultations would be determined in consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

Section 9, Economic and social affairs

5. The workload of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Branch of the Office for Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development (subprogramme 1) in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), has significantly increased and is expected to continue to grow. Between 2009 and 2023, the number of accredited NGOs increased from 1,789 to 6,309, and the number of annual new applications increased almost fivefold from 143 to 845 within that same period. The number of new quadrennial reports reviewed by the NGO Branch also increased fourfold from 204 in 2009 to 1,048 in 2023. The numbers of applications and quadrennial reports deferred from previous sessions continue to increase as well, as does the number of backlog applications (the number of backlog applications as of 2023 was 238). Despite this surge in workload, the staffing levels in the NGO Branch (1 D-1, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 1 P-3 and 5 GS (OL)) have remained unchanged since 2009. Consequently, the Branch is no longer able to effectively and efficiently support the mandate of the Committee as set out in ECOSOC resolution 1996/31.

Post requirements

6. In light of this and pursuant to operative paragraph 4, wherein the Council would request the Secretary General to increase his support to the NGO Branch in order to fulfil the Committee’s mandate, it is proposed that four additional posts (1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 2 GS(OL)), be established as follows:

(a) Programme Management Officer (P-3): Provide dedicated substantive and technical support to the work programme and objectives of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, including the review of applications for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and quadrennial reports submitted by NGOs; provide, supervise, and coordinate substantive input into the preparation of background papers and reports for
presentation to the Committee; lead and undertake outreach activities; conduct training workshops and make presentations on NGO related topics/activities.

(b) Associate Information Systems Officer (P-2): Support the maintenance of NGO Branch applications and the integrated Civil Society Organizations (iCSO) system and database; create and maintain user accounts and access; provide user training, and monitor the IT system; prepare, update and maintain system's documentation and related technical/procedural manuals; participate in Helpdesk support services for reporting and resolving technical end user issues with NGO Branch applications, databases, and answers end user questions; provide on-site support for troubleshooting, resolving, and reporting technical issues to the appropriate support teams; collaborate with OICT and other UN IT service providers to resolve technical issues; maintain clear documentation on status and resolution of issues using NGO Branch issue tracking applications; draft training materials and conducts training sessions and demonstrations of systems for users.

(c) Research Assistant (General Service (Other level)): Review applications for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and quadrennial reports submitted by NGOs, including all components of the application package and additional documentation presented through the iCSO; ensure that submissions are completed in accordance with relevant ECOSOC legislation and internal procedures; engage in written and oral communications with NGO representatives in relation to the application for consultative status and quadrennial report process; assist and/or provide training to NGO representatives on the process of applying for consultative status, and other engaging activities that facilitate their contribution to the work of ECOSOC; identify and support the organizational requirements for meetings of the Committee on NGOs and assist in the preparation of documentation and reports of these meetings.

(d) Research Assistant (General Service (Other level)): Provide research and administrative support to the NGO Branch in all relevant aspects of work; assist in the update and maintenance of relevant computerized databases, including reviewing required information for the approval and monitoring of grounds passes to UN premises to duly accredited representatives of NGOs in consultative status, to facilitate their participation in UN meetings, consultations and events; obtain and compile data on NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC from the iCSO database to support the review of quadrennial reports, including the batching, formatting and updating of records on quadrennial reports; review, store and maintain data related to quadrennial reports, change of name and grounds passes in the relevant computerized databases, such as iCSO and the CSO Net
messaging system; coordinate logistical arrangements for both the informal and formal sessions of the NGO Committee.

Non-post requirements

7. Non-post requirements estimated at $23,600 would also be required for the proposed four new posts as follows:

   (a) Contractual services: a recurrent provision of $7,600 would cover for core personal computing service and core enterprise applications;

   (b) Supplies and materials: a recurrent provision of $800 would cover the costs of stationery and office supplies;

   (c) Furniture and equipment: a non-recurrent provision of $15,200 would cover the acquisition of office automation equipment and communications equipment, as well as office furniture.

8. As indicated in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, the Secretariat has undertaken a review of options that could be taken to ensure its effective and efficient support to the Committee’s mandate as set out in EOCOC resolution 1996/31. Given the mandates that underpin each of the posts approved for the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, it was not possible to identify posts to redeploy to the NGO Branch without negatively impacting the delivery of mandates in other areas. An option of four general temporary assistance positions in lieu of the 4 proposed posts was also considered; however, as described in paragraph 6 above, the increasing volume of accredited NGOs, applications and quadrennial reports are not expected to be of a temporary nature.

9. The proposed requirements for Economic and Social Affairs can be found below in Table 1:

**Table 1: Resource requirements under section 9, Economic and Social Affairs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(United States dollars)</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2026 onwards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Posts (1 P-3, 1 P-2 and 2 GS (OL))</td>
<td>303 100*</td>
<td>537 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contractual services</td>
<td>7 600</td>
<td>7 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies and materials</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture and equipment (non-recurrent)</td>
<td>15 200</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total additional requirements</strong></td>
<td><strong>326 700</strong></td>
<td><strong>545 500</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*New posts are costed at 50% in accordance with the budget methodology.*