At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 9 February 1996, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Decided to invite, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to the outcome of the review of arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations currently under way, all non-governmental organizations that had been accredited to participate in the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development and were not in consultative status with the Council to participate, respectively, at the fortieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and the special session of the Commission for Social Development; those non-governmental organizations should be accorded rights of participation equivalent to those of non-governmental organizations with Roster status, but the according of such rights would in no way confer on those non-governmental organizations Roster or any other consultative status with the Council and its subsidiary bodies;

(b) Also decided that the participation of non-governmental organizations from developing countries should be encouraged and facilitated, in particular through adequate funding from appropriate voluntary national and international sources.