

1999/34. Strengthening the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the provisions of its resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 which update the procedure on the consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations,

Aware of the evolving relationship between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations community resulting from the broader and more substantive involvement of non-governmental organizations with the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations at large, and appreciative of the breadth of expertise of non-governmental organizations and their unique capacity to support the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies,

Appreciative of the need to encourage greater participation of non-governmental organizations from developing countries and countries with economies in transition in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies,

Mindful of the significant increase in the number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status that has taken place in recent years, and conscious of the fact that the number will continue to increase in the foreseeable future,

Mindful also of the demand that the expansion of the participation of non-governmental organizations has on the workload and resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat,

Recalling paragraph 68 of its resolution 1996/31 regarding the requirement for adequate Secretariat support to fulfil the mandate defined for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations with respect to carrying out the wider range of activities in which the enhanced involvement of non-governmental organizations is envisaged,

Reaffirming the vital role of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, as described in the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat,⁹⁸ in accordance with resolution 1996/31, and emphasizing the need to ensure that the Section is able to operate efficiently in carrying out its mandate as well as in initiating new activities, as required, at the optimal level of performance,

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at the main part of its fifty-fourth session containing a comprehensive analysis of the organizational structure and technical, personnel and financial resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, commensurate with the increased workload and the level of responsibility necessary to implement the mandate of the Secretariat, as contained in Council resolution 1996/31, parts X and XI;

2. *Urges* the Secretary-General, in view of the increased workload and responsibilities of the Section, as an interim measure, to provide to the Section the resources necessary, from within existing resources, without diverting resources from development programmes, to enable it to carry out its responsibilities efficiently, effectively and expeditiously.

*44th plenary meeting
28 July 1999*

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E/1998/43 and Corr.1.