

ECOSOC Resolution 2008/5

Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the provisions of its resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 on the consultative relationship between the Economic and Social Council and non-governmental organizations,

Aware of the evolving relationship between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations community, reflecting the broader and more substantive involvement of non-governmental organizations with the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations at large,

Mindful of the significantly large increase in the number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that has occurred in recent years and conscious that the number will continue to increase in the foreseeable future,

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

Recalling paragraph 68 of Economic and Social Council 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 was envisaged,

Recalling the regular programme of technical cooperation under section 22 of the programme budget of the United Nations,

Emphasizing the need to ensure that the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is able to operate efficiently in carrying out its mandate at the optimum level of performance,

Emphasizing also the need to strengthen partnership with the civil society as emphasized by the Secretary-General within the reform of the United Nations by integrating analytical capacity with technical cooperation activities for greater effectiveness and efficiency,

1. *Regrets* the weak capacity of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full utilization of the resources allocated to it as well as the filling of all vacant posts and to report on proposals to further strengthen the capacity of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section within the context of the proposed programme

budget for the biennium 2010-2011 and the maintenance of the institutional memory of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, thereby making full use of lessons learned and best practices within the Section so as to enable it to carry out its responsibilities efficiently and effectively;

2. *Recommends* that a technical cooperation programme be established for the Non-Governmental Organizations Section aiming at providing advisory services, the conduct of capacity-building workshops designed to launch the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE), at regional, subregional and national levels, and the development of training materials and the promotion of pilot joint partnership initiatives, projects and programmes involving the United Nations, the civil society and Governments worldwide, especially for the countries most in need.

*37th plenary meeting
21 July 2008*