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CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN THE COMMISSION
AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Note by
the Executive Secretary

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A. RULES GOVERNING CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Provisions in the Rules of Procedure of the Commission

1. The terms of reference of the Commission include a provision on relations with non-governmental organizations (paragraph 7 (b)), which reads:

"The Commission shall make arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations which have been granted consultative status by the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with the principles approved by the Council for this purpose."

In accordance with this provision the Commission includes in its Rules of Procedure which were adopted at its first session in fulfilment of paragraph eleven of its terms of reference, rules on relations with non-governmental organizations which followed the principles established by the Council.

2. The arrangements for consultations with Non-Governmental Organizations are covered in the following rules:

"Rule 7

The provisional agenda for each session shall be drawn up by the Executive-Secretary in consultation with the Chairman and shall be communicated to the members of the Commission ... to the non-governmental organizations in Category A and to the appropriate non-governmental organizations in Categories B and C, together with the notice convening the Commission.

"Rule 8

The provisional agenda for any session shall include:

.....
(g) items proposed by non-governmental organizations in Category A;

"Rule 9

Before the Executive-Secretary places an item proposed by
"a non-governmental organization*in Category A on the provisional agenda,
"he shall carry out with the organization concerned such preliminary
"consultations as may be necessary.

"Rule 47

As soon as possible the text of all reports, resolutions,
"recommendations, and other formal decisions made by the Commission, its
"sub-commissions or other subsidiary bodies and its committees shall be
"communicated to the Members of the Commission, to Associate Members if and
"when admitted, to all other Members of the United Nations, to the
"specialized agencies, to the Inter-American Economic and Social Council,
"to non-governmental organizations in Category A, and to the appropriate
"non-governmental organizations in Categories B and C.

"Rule 49

Non-governmental organizations in Categories A, B and C may designate
"authorized representatives to sit as observers at public meetings of the
"Commission. Non-governmental organizations in Category A may circulate
"to the members of the Commission written statements and suggestions on
"matters within their competence. Non-governmental organizations in
"Categories B and C may submit such statements and suggestions to the
"Executive-Secretary. The Executive-Secretary will prepare and
"distribute at each session of the Commission a list of such communications
"received, briefly indicating the substance of each of them. On the
"request of any Member of the Commission the Executive-Secretary will
"reproduce in full and distribute any such communication.

"Rule 50

The Commission may at its discretion consult with non-governmental organizations in Categories A, B and C on matters in which the Commission regards these organizations as having special competence or knowledge. Such consultations may be arranged on the invitation of the Commission or on the request of the organization. In the case of non-governmental organizations in Categories B and C consultations might be effected either directly or through ad hoc Committees."

Council's Review of Consultative Arrangements

3. In February 1949, the Council instructed its Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to review the consultative arrangements with these organizations.^{1/} In February 1950, the Committee presented its report (E/1619 and Add.1 and 2 and Corr. 1 and 2) which transmitted to the tenth session of the Council a revised statute concerning consultative arrangements. This report and the revised statute were adopted by the Council in Resolution 228 (X). The revised statute provided two codes of consultation with non-governmental bodies, one for the Council itself and one for its functional commissions (See Annex II to this document).

The revised statute abolished category C, but made provision for the establishment of a register, to be kept by the Secretary-General, of organizations in consultative status for whom status A or B was not

^{1/} Resolution 214 (VII)E of 16 February 1949.

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appropriate.

4. Paragraph 17 of the report to the Council (E/1619) stated:

"The proposals which the committee makes do not cover consultations with the Regional Economic Commissions, which were empowered by the Council to adopt their own rules of procedure... They have developed procedures and practices for consultation which differ somewhat both compared with those of the Council and as among themselves. The Committee considers that this matter should be reviewed in 1951 as part of the general review of the Regional Economic Commissions due to take place then."

Although its rules regarding consultation with NGO's now differ from the two sets of revised rules adopted by the Council, as stated in the paragraph quoted above, the Commission has made no change in its consultative arrangements.

1/ This arrangement was designed to cover cases where full continuous consultative relationship was not appropriate, but where ad hoc consultation might be desirable from time to time. It was intended to apply particularly to organizations which are highly specialized in a narrow field. The register contains (1) organizations recommended for inclusion by the Council or its Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations; (2) international organizations in consultative status or similar relationship with a specialized agency which have not been granted consultative status in categories A or B; and (3) other international organizations which apply to the Secretary-General for inclusion and which, in his opinion, have a significant contribution to make to the work of the Council or its subsidiary bodies.

B. CONSULTATIVE RELATIONS

Attendance by Non-Governmental Organizations at Meetings
of the Commission

5. The Sessions of the Commission were attended by representatives and observers of the following non-governmental organizations having consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:

First Session

World Federation of United Nations Associations (Category A)
Inter-American Council of Commerce and Production (Category B)

Second Session

American Federation of Labour (Category A)
World Federation of Trade Unions (Category A)
World Federation of United Nations Associations (Category A)
National Association of Manufacturers (USA) (Category B)

Third Session

International Chamber of Commerce (Category A)
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (Category A)
World Federation of United Nations Associations (Category A)
Inter-American Council of Commerce and Production (Category B)
International Organization for Standardization (Category B)
International Transport Worker's Federation (Category B)
National Association of Manufacturers (USA) (Category B)

6. The non-governmental organizations represented at the meeting of ECLA have followed the work of the Commission with interest. On numerous occasions they have availed themselves of the facilities accorded to them by the Commission to submit statements and participate in the debates, as has been recorded in the Commission proceedings.

Exchange of Documents and Information

7. Official ECLA documents are regularly sent to the following non-governmental organizations:

1. Organizations in Category A consultative status

- World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)
- International Co-operative Alliance (ICA)
- International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)
- International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- International Federation of Agricultural Producers (IFAP)
- International Federation of Christian Trade Unions (IFCTU)
- Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
- International Organization of Employers (IOE)
- World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA)

2. Organizations in category B consultative status

- Inter-American Council of Commerce and Production (IACCP)
- International Institute of Administrative Sciences
- International Statistical Institute (ISI)
- National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)

3. Organizations on the Register of the Secretary General

- The Econometric Society
- International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electric Power.

C. 1951 REVIEW AND FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS

8. The Commission's present arrangements for consultation with non-governmental organizations, while being based on the rules and practices of the Economic and Social Council which were in force between 1947 and 1949, differ from the provisions adopted by the Council early in 1950 in Resolution 288 (X); these provisions include one set of rules for the Council itself and one for the functional commissions. ECLA's present arrangements also differ in some respects from those of ECE and ECAFE.

9. The Commission may wish to consider the revision of the rules relating to consultative relations with NGO's to conform with the provisions of Resolution 288 (X) and in particular to decide whether the arrangements of the Council or those adopted by the Council for functional commissions should be applied.

10. A comparison of the new arrangements of the Council and the functional commission, which are given in full in Annex II to this report, suggests that the latter are simpler and more general than those of the Council and would make for greater flexibility in relation with Non-Governmental Organizations. For this reason, it might appear that the arrangements of the functional commission would be more appropriate as a basis for any new rules governing the relations of ECLA with Non-Governmental Organizations.

11. As indicated above, the Economic and Social Council has approved the recommendation of its Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations

that consultative arrangements of the regional economic commissions should be reviewed in 1951 as a part of the general review of the commissions, now being undertaken by the Ad hoc Committee on the organizations and operation of the Council and its Commissions.

12. Pending any further action which may be taken by the Council in this respect, the Commission may wish to decide that it will apply the provisions of Resolution 288 (X) and in particular those provisions which pertain to arrangements for consultation between Non-Governmental Organizations and functional commissions, and further, that any provision in the existing rules of procedure of the Commission which is inconsistent with Resolution 288 (X) shall be superseded.