

Recent cases on stakeholder engagement in United Nations Conferences: Non-objection Basis and Final Decision Examples

The General Assembly and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) have recently applied the no-objection basis in the following two separate cases, with the Plenary of the UNGA and of the Committee taking the final decision on objected resolutions.

1. Summit of the Future

The General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/76/307 - *Modalities of the Summit of the Future*¹ in operative paragraph 11 requested the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may participate in the high-level Summit of the Future, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, with due regard for gender parity, to submit the proposed list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis and to bring the list to the attention of the Assembly for a final decision by the Assembly on participation in the Summit.

Furthermore, the list would include proposed as well as final names. The general basis of any objections, if requested by one or more States Members of the United Nations or States members of the specialized agencies, would be made known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and the requester.

The process of accreditation entailed:

- (i) application for accreditation by organisations not in consultative status with ECOSOC.
- (ii) the NGO Liaison Service (NGLS), Global Communications Programme processing applications and preparation of a list of proposed organisations for submission to the Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA).
- (iii) OPGA submission of the proposed list to member states for consideration on a non-objection basis for a period of five days.
- (iv) OPGA preparation of the list of proposed and final names at the end of the no-objection period for consideration by the General Assembly.
- (v) General Assembly consideration of OPGA list with proposed and final names for a decision.
- (vi) NGLS confirmation of accreditation of General Assembly approved organisations to attend the Summit of the Future as observers.

By comparison there was a disparity between the proposed and final list of organisations submitted to the General Assembly for final decision. The final names from OPGA to the General Assembly excluded organisations objected to by member states.

¹ [A_RES_76_307-EN\(1\).pdf](#)

However, using the Summit of the Future procedure a member state at the General Assembly introduced an amendment which led to the reinstatement of these organisations.

The resolution can be consulted on

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/192/16/pdf/n2419216.pdf>

The amendment can be consulted in

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/ltd/n24/200/23/pdf/n2420023.pdf>

The documents regarding the full process can be accessed below

<https://www.un.org/pga/78/2024/07/02/letter-from-president-general-assembly-on-cso-list-sotf/>

2. Application for consultative status with ECOSOC by the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)

The accreditation process for organizations through the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) grants Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) consultative status, allowing them to participate in UN activities and influence decision-making. Accredited NGOs can then attend meetings, submit statements, and work with UN bodies, enhancing civil society's role in international policymaking.

The process can be summarized on the following way:

- **Application Submission:** NGOs interested in ECOSOC consultative status must submit an application through the UN's Integrated Civil Society Organizations System (iCSO). The application includes information about the organization's activities, finances, structure, and alignment with UN goals.
- **Screening and Review:** The NGO Branch of the UN reviews applications to ensure eligibility criteria are met, such as a minimum two-year track record, democratic structure, and alignment with ECOSOC's goals.
- **Committee Review:** The Committee on NGOs, a subsidiary body of ECOSOC, reviews applications. This process includes a detailed examination, where the Committee may ask follow-up questions or request further documentation from applicants.
- **Committee Recommendation:** If approved, the Committee recommends the NGO for consultative status to the ECOSOC Council. This recommendation is based on the organization's ability to contribute to UN objectives. The Committee can also recommend not to accredit the organisation or deferral the decision for a later session.
- **Final Decision by ECOSOC:** ECOSOC reviews the Committee's recommendations and makes the final decision. If granted, the organization receives General, Special, or Roster consultative status, which determines the level and type of participation allowed.

In the past years, several times the ECOSOC decided to grant the accreditation of several organizations, even if that was not the recommendation of NGO Committee. Examples can be found on:

- ECOSOC Decision 2016/233
- ECOSOC Decision 2016/232
- ECOSOC Decision 2017/217 (E/2017/32 (Part I), chap. I, draft decision I (as amended by decision 2017/215) and E/2017/SR.18)
- ECOSOC Decision 2018/216, (E/2018/32 (Part I), sect. I, draft decision I, as amended by the Council in decisions 2018/213, 2018/214 and 2018/215, and E/2018/SR.17)
- ECOSOC Decision 2021/247 (E/2021/32 (Part I), sect. I.A, draft decision I (as amended by decision 2021/246)
- ECOSOC Decision 2023/304
- ECOSOC Decision 2023/343