

10/02/22

## **Open Letter to Members of the UN's General Assembly Regarding the ECOSOC Committee on NGOs**

To: Member States of the UN General Assembly

Cc: President of ECOSOC, President of the General Assembly, President of the Human Rights Council, UN Secretary General.

Excellencies:

We are two months out from elections to the ECOSOC Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations for the 2023-2026 term. These are key elections for all those who value the expertise of civil society and seek to ensure the UN can benefit from it.

The Secretary General has called civil society the UN's 'indispensable partners'. Member States recently committed to boosting partnerships 'to ensure an effective response to our common challenges'. In recommending approval of the participation of non-governmental organisations in a range of UN bodies and processes, the Committee on NGOs plays a key role in facilitating such partnerships. It is essential that the members of the Committee are committed to fulfilling such a task fairly and judiciously.

With this in mind, we would like to request the following, that:

1. States with an interest in facilitating and safeguarding civil society access to and participation in UN processes stand for election to the Committee.
2. Candidates make public the reasons for their candidacy and their commitment to fulfil their responsibilities as members of the Committee, as per ECOSOC Resolution 1996/31.
3. All regions put up competitive slates, as the Asia-Pacific and GRULAC regions did in the last elections for the Committee in 2018. Competitive elections are important to create buy-in to the process and encourage states to be accountable for their commitments.
4. All regions make public candidacies at least two months before the elections to allow for proper consideration of candidates.
5. All ECOSOC members vote (and be encouraged to vote) only for candidates with positive track records in regard to civil society access and participation. Candidates could be assessed in regard to indicators such as support for relevant UN resolutions, such as those on civil society space and human rights defenders; on responses to cases of intimidation

and reprisals; and on national level initiatives to safeguard civic space, press freedom – online as offline – and the right to defend human rights.

6. ECOSOC members should consider introducing term limits for membership of the Committee on NGOs, among other reforms encouraging openness and accountability. As with other UN bodies, states should be required to leave the Committee for a specific interval of time after serving for a maximum agreed period. Term limits would encourage greater diversity in membership over time and encourage states to step up as candidates.

The Committee on NGOs is entrusted with the task of facilitating civil society access so that the expertise and experience of civil society partners can enrich and inform UN debates. It needs members that are committed to fulfilling the Committee's mandate in a fair, transparent, non-discriminatory, expeditious and apolitical manner. It falls on all member states – as potential candidates and / or electors – to ensure that the Committee membership is fit for purpose.

Please elect to stand up for civil society!

Yours sincerely,

Aboriginal Drug & Alcohol Council (SA)  
Aboriginal Corporation

Acceso a la Justicia

Access Now

Acción Solidaria

Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights

Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association (Addameer)

AfricaNPUD

AfroLatin@Project

Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento (APDES)

Agir Ensemble pour les Droits Humains

Ágora México

AIDS Action Europe

Alcohol and Drug Foundation Australia

Al-Erada Organization for Relief and Development

Al-Haq

Al Hub Wa Al Salam Iraqi Globally

Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights

Alliance for Diversity and Equality (AfED)

Alliance Nationale des Communautés pour la Santé Sénégal (ANCS)

Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

ALQST for Human Rights

Altaqwa Association for Women and Child Rights

Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain (ADHRB)

Amman Center for Human Rights Studies (ACHRS)

Amnesty International

Andrey Rylkov Foundation for Health and Social Justice

Anhur Foundation

Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU)

Arab Network for Knowledge about Human Rights (ANKH)

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ASEAN SOGIE Caucus	Center for Constitutional Rights
Asian Conference on Education & International Development (ACEID)	Center for Innovative and Pragmatic Development Initiative (CIPDI)
Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)	Center for Investigative Reporting (CIN)
Asociación Civil Red Ciudadana	Center for Reproductive Rights
Association de Parents et Amis de Disparus au Maroc	Center Women and Modern World
Association for Progressive Communications (APC)	Centre for Human Rights Movement
Association Margina from Bosnia and Herzegovina	Centre on Drug Policy Evaluation (CDPE)
Association Mauritanienne pour la Promotion des Droits de l'Homme (AMPDH)	Centro de Convivência É de Lei
Association of Anti-bribery Management System Practitioners Malaysia	Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS)
Association pour le Respect du Droit des Populations Autochtones, du Développement Durable et du Droit de l'Homme (ARPA2DH)	Centro de Justicia y Paz (Cepaz)
ASUD	Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral (COIN)
Australian Alcohol and other Drugs Council (AADC)	Centro InterculturaCidade (ACI)
Autistic Minority International	Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental, A.C. (CEMDA)
AWTAD Anti-Corruption Organization	Centro por la Justicia y Derechos Humanos de la Costa Atlántica de Nicaragua (CEJUDHCAN)
Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRDBH)	Centros de Integración Juvenil (CIJ)
Bahrain Transparency Association	Child Rights Connect
Beneby Enterprises, LLC	CHOICE for Youth and Sexuality
Bensther Development Foundation	Chronic Illness Advocacy & Awareness Group (CIAAG)
Berkeley Patients Group	CityWide Drugs Crisis Campaign Ireland
Botswana Watch Organization	CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)	Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC)
Caleidoscopio Humano	Coalición Boliviana de Colectivos LGBTI
Ceasefire Centre for Civilian Rights	Coalition Ivoirienne des Défenseurs des Droits Humains (CIDDH)
	Coexistence Organisation for Relief and Development

Collectif des Associations Contre l'Impunité au Togo (CACIT)

Collectif des Familles de Disparu(e)s en Algérie (CFDA)

Collectif Urgence Toxida

Comisión Colombiana de Juristas

Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative

Concile Mondiale de Congrès Diplomatiques des Aumoniers pour la Paix Universelle des Droits Humains et Juridiques

Conectados Pela Vida

Conectas Direitos Humanos

Consejo Regional Indígena y Popular de Xpujil

Conselho Indigenista Missionário (CIMI)

Corporación Viso Mutop Colombia

Correlation European Harm Reduction Network

Czech AIDS Help Society

DaMigra

Dar Africa

Darya Organization for Developing Women and Community

Dawei Probono Lawyer Network

DefendDefenders - East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project

Derechos Humanos y Litigio Estratégico Mexicano (DLM - Mexico)

Deutsche Aidshilfe

Dianova International

DRCNet Foundation Inc

Drug Policy Network South East Europe

Društvo AREAL

Elternkreis Wien Verein zur Förderung der Selbsthilfe für Angehörige von Suchtkranken

Empowerment for Sustainable Livelihood (EFSL)

Engineering Association for Development and Environment

Epikieia DDHH

Episteme. Investigación e Intervención Social

ERA - LGBTI Equal Rights Association for the Western Balkans and Turkey

Ethiopian Initiative for Human Rights (EIHR)

Eurasian Harm Reduction Association (EHRA)

European AIDS Treatment Group

European Coalition for Just and Effective Drug Policies (ENCOD)

Eurothink - Center for European Strategies

Expert Forum (EFOR)

FAAAT Think & Do Tank

Fédération Addiction

Fédération Euro-Méditerranéenne Contre les Disparitions Forcées (FEMED)

Fédération Internationale pour les Droits Humains (FIDH)

FIACAT

Fields of Green for ALL

F'INE Pasifika Aotearoa Trust

Forum Droghe

Forum Réfugiés-Cosi

Fòs Feminista

Franciscans International

Fundação Portuguesa "A Comunidade Contra a SIDA" (FPCCSIDA)

Fundación de Ayuda contra la Drogadicción (FAD)  
Fundación Gente Positiva CR  
Fundación Multitudes  
Fundación Red por la Infancia  
Fundamental Human Rights & Rural Development Association FHRRDA  
Global Action for Trans Equality  
Global Black Gay Men Connect (GBGMC)  
Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect  
Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime  
Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR)  
Global Justice Center  
Green Crescent Ethiopia  
Green Development Advocates (GDA)  
Gulf Centre for Human Rights  
Guyanese Association of Harm Reduction (AGRHR)  
Harm Reduction Australia (HRA)  
Harm Reduction International  
Health Poverty Action  
Healthy Options Project Skopje (HOPS)  
Hearts On Venezuela  
Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights  
Hepatitis Australia  
HIV Justice Network  
HIV Legal Network  
Hope and Trust  
HPLGBT  
Human Rights Campaign  
Human Rights Defenders Network – Sierra Leone (HRDN-SL)

Human Rights House Foundation  
Human Rights Watch  
Humanists International  
IFEX  
Indonesian Harm Reduction Network (JANGKAR)  
Institute for Development of Freedom of Information  
Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti (IJDH)  
Institute of Legislative Ideas  
Integrity Initiatives International  
Intercambios Asociación Civil  
International Accountability Project  
International Association of Applied Psychology  
International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)  
International Center for Ethnobotanical Education, Research, and Service (ICEERS)  
International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)  
International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)  
International Council of Women; National Council of Women Austria  
International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN)  
International Drug Law Advocacy and Resource Center (IDLARC)  
International Drug Policy Consortium  
International Federation of Settlements and Neighborhood Centers  
International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights (Race and Equality)  
International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA World)

International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)  
International Movement for Advancement of Education Culture Social & Economic Development (IMAECSED)  
International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse  
International Network of People who Use Drugs (INPUD)  
International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)  
International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific  
Iranti South Africa  
Iraqi Al-Amal Association  
Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights  
Japan Advocacy Network for Drug Policy  
Jeunesse pour une Nouvelle Société (JNS)  
Jordan Transparency Center  
Just Fair  
Justice for All  
Justitia Center for Legal Protection of Human Rights in Algeria  
Kampania Przeciw Homofobii (Campaign Against Homophobia)  
Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC)  
Khairat Al-Nahraeen of Human Organization  
Kilómetro 0  
KIOS Foundation  
Kuchlak Welfare Society (KWS) Balochistan Pakistan  
Laboratorio de Paz  
LakanBini Advocates Pilipinas  
Larsa Organization

Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (LRWC)  
LEAP Europe  
Legal Resources Centre (LRC)  
Louisiana Veterans for Medical Cannabis  
Maecenata Foundation  
Mainline Foundation  
Mangfoldhuset  
MANODIVERSA  
Mediterranean Dialogue Center  
MENA Rights Group  
Mesa de Trabajo Nacional (MTN)  
México Unido Contra la Delincuencia (MUCD)  
Mother and Child Development Organization (MCDO)  
Mother Teresa Foundation  
Movement for Democracy and Prosperity in Azerbaijan  
Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies Canada  
Mwatana for Human Rights  
Namibia Diverse Women's Association (NDWA)  
Narasha Community Development Group  
Narconon Nigeria Initiative  
National Birth Equity Collaborative (NBEC)  
Neengar Society  
Network of the Independent Commission for Human Rights in North Africa (CIDH AFRICA)  
New York NGO Committee on Drugs  
No Borders Humanity Organization (NBH)  
NORML France  
Northern Citizen Community Board (NCCB)

Observatorio de Derechos Humanos de la Universidad de Los Andes  
Observatório de Economia e Gestão de Fraude (OBEGEF)  
Observatorio Penal Mérida (OPEM DDHH)  
OpenMedia  
Option2world Initiative Against Drug Abuse  
Organization for Addiction Prevention Treatment and Rehabilitation (OAPTAR)  
OutRight Action International  
Oyu Tolgoi Watch  
Pan Africa ILGA (PAI)  
Paropakar Primary Health Care Centre PPUK  
Partnership for Justice, Nigeria  
Pathways for Women's Empowerment and Development (PaWED)  
Peace Track Initiative (PTI)  
Pink Human Rights Defender NGO  
Pioneer Filipino Transgender Men Movement  
Plan International  
Planet Ally  
Plateforme Droits de l'Homme (PDH)  
Pont de la Solidarité  
Positiiviset ry HivFinland  
Positive Voice  
Positive Women  
Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research (PODER)  
Promoting Empowerment Through Awareness for Lesbian and Bisexual Women (PETAL)  
Protección Internacional Mesoamérica  
Proyecto Centros de Atención Laboral, Escuela Nacional Sindical, Colombia

Purity Care Investment  
Queer Singapore  
Rainbow Community Kampuchea Organisation (RoCK)  
Rainbow Pride Foundation (RPF)  
Recovering Justice  
Recovering Nepal (RN)  
Red Internacional de Derechos Humanos (RIDH, Suiza/Ginebra)  
Rede Nacional de Mulheres Negras no Combate á Violência  
ReLeaf Malta  
Reporters Sans Frontières (RSF)  
Research Institute Without Walls  
Réseau Nigérien des Défenseurs des Droits Humains (RNDDH)  
Réseau Ouest Africain des Défenseurs des Droits Humains  
REVS PLUS  
Rights Realization Centre (RRC)  
Rivers Without Boundaries Coalition - Mongolia  
Romanian Association Against AIDS (ARAS)  
Sadaa Center for Human Development  
Safoi Konibodom  
SALAM for Democracy and Human Rights (SALAM DHR)  
San Patrignano Foundation  
SEDRA-Federación de Planificación Familiar (SEDRA-FPFE)  
Shine Africa Foundation - Teso (SAF-TESO)  
Sisters of Charity Federation  
Skilled Iraqi Woman Foundation  
Social Research & Evaluation Pty Limited

Solace Initiative

Solidarité Internationale LGBTQI

SOS Africaines en Danger

South Asian Drugs and Addictions Research Council

Spero

Students for Sensible Drug Policy

Sudanese Women Rights Action

Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression (SCM)

Ta'afi Initiative Syria

The Daphne Caruana Galizia Foundation

The Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya (GALCK)

The Global Alliance for LGBT Education (GALE)

The Global Interfaith Network (GIN-SSOGIE)

The Good Lobby

The Institute for Studies of Society, Economy & Environment (iSEE)

The International Youth Parliament (IYP)

The Jus Semper Global Alliance

The Lesbian and Gay Association of Liberia (LEGAL)

The National Organization of Yemeni Reporters SADA

The Stockholm Drug Users Union

The WPS Group

Together for Responsible Use and Cannabis Education (TRUCE)

Tournons La Page

Trans\* Support Organization - Kenya

Transform Drug Policy Foundation

Transformation Self Motivation (TSM) Consultants

Transgender Europe (TGEU)

Transparency International

Transparency International Taiwan

Transvanilla Transgender Association

Uganda Key Populations Consortium (UKPC)

Ukrainian Network of People who Use Drugs (PUD.UA/ VOLNA)

Ukrainian Network of Women who Use Drugs (UNWUD)

UNANIMA International

UNCAC Coalition

Unchained At Last

Unidad de Protección a Defensoras y Defensores de Derechos Humanos de Guatemala (UDEFEQUA)

UNIDOS - Rede Nacional de Redução de Danos

Union contre la Co-infection VIH/Hépatites/Tuberculose (UNICO HIV/HV/TB)

Union for Equity and Health, Moldova

Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA)

Unitarian Universalist Association

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

United Nations Association, UK

United Nations Program, Occidental College

Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

Urnas Abiertas

Uzbek Forum for Human Rights

Vienna NGO Committee on Drugs (VNGOC)

VIVAT International

Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)



West Africa Drug Policy Network  
(WADPN)

West African Human Rights Defenders'  
Network

Western Pacific Palliative Care Advocacy  
Network; Australasian Palliative Link  
International

Women Supporting Women Association  
(WSW)

Women Nest

Women's Centre for Legal Aid and  
Counselling (WCLAC)

Women's Human Rights International  
Association

World Organisation Against Torture  
(OMCT)

World Organization Safety Montenegro

Yemeni Youth Forum for Peace

Young Feminist Europe

Young Queer Alliance

Youth for Human Rights Pakistan

Youth RISE

مؤسسة الحق لحقوق الانسان - العراق

مؤسسة المرأة العراقية الماهرة

مؤسسة نخبة المستقبل لحقوق الانسان

منظمة سما للدعم النفسي والاجتماعي -حقوق الانسان

منظمة نور الرحمه لحقوق الانسان