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1993/215. Procedural arrangements for the Commission on Sustainable
Development

The Economic and Social Council,

(a) Decides that, with the following supplementary arrangements, the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council shall apply to the Commission on Sustainable Development:

Participation of and consultation with specialized agencies and participation of other inter-governmental organizations

1. While the participation of and consultation with specialized agencies and the participation of other inter-governmental organizations are governed by rules 71-74 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions, the Commission on Sustainable Development or a subsidiary organ thereof shall invite relevant intergovernmental organizations within and outside the United Nations system, including multilateral financial institutions, to appoint special representatives to the Commission to serve as focal points for the Commission's members and the Secretariat.

Representation of and consultation with non-governmental organizations

2. Representation of and consultation with the non-governmental organizations in the Commission would be governed by the following arrangements that would supplement, solely for the purposes of the Commission on Sustainable Development rules 75 and 76 of the Rules of Procedure of the Functional Commissions of ECOSOC:

(i) Non-governmental organizations in category I or II or relevant and competent non-governmental organizations on the Roster may designate authorized representatives to be present and observe the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary organs.

(ii) These non-governmental organizations may, at their own expense, make written presentations to the Commission and its subsidiary organs through the Secretariat in the official languages of the United Nations as they deem appropriate. Those written presentations will not be issued as official documents.

(iii) These non-governmental organizations may be given an opportunity to briefly address the meetings of the Commission and its subsidiary organs. In view of the number of non-governmental organizations which have expressed their desire to be accorded that opportunity, the Chairman of the Commission or its subsidiary organ may request the non-governmental organizations concerned to address the meetings through one or more spokespersons. Any oral intervention by a representative of a non-governmental organization would be at the discretion of the Chairman of the Commission or its subsidiary organ and with the consent of the members of the commission or its subsidiary organ, as the case may be.

(iv) Non-governmental organizations shall not have any negotiating role in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary organs.

(v) The Commission may consult with and/or hear, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations in category I or II or relevant and competent non-governmental organizations on the Roster either directly or through a committee or committees established for the purpose.

(vi) Relevance and competence of non-governmental organizations to be included in the Roster shall be determined by the Council on the recommendation of the Secretary-General.

(b) Requests the Commission to encourage an equitable representation of non-governmental organizations from the developed and developing countries and from all regions and should also strive to ensure a fair balance between non-governmental organizations with an environment focus and those with a development focus;

(c) Decides that any non-governmental organization which was accredited to participate in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development by the conclusion of its fourth session can apply and shall be granted Roster status, subject to approval of the Council and bearing in mind the provisions of Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(d) Invites non-governmental organizations, with a view to enhancing their effective and coordinated contribution to the work of the Commission and to the follow-up of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in general, to consider or to continue organizing themselves in various constituencies and interest groups as well as setting up non-governmental networks, including electronic networks, for exchange of relevant information and documentation;

(e) Decides further, in the light of paragraph 2 above and its decision (ECOSOC decision 1993/208), to make the following changes to the rules of procedures of the functional commissions (Document E/5975/Rev.1):

(i) In footnote 1, add the Commission on Sustainable Development to the enumeration of functional commissions of the Council;

(ii) In footnote 4, add a reference to the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(iii) Add a footnote to rules 75 and 76 reading:

"The terms of representation of and consultations with the non-governmental organizations in the Commission on Sustainable Development have been further determined by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 215".

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