

**RULES GOVERNING
RELATIONSHIP WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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RULES GOVERNING RELATIONSHIP WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS¹

Rule 1

Subject to approval by the Assembly, the Council may grant consultative status to any non-governmental international organization which is able to make a substantial contribution to the work of the International Maritime Organization. The Council may also grant consultative status on a provisional basis to any non-governmental international organization for a period not exceeding four years.

Rule 2

Purposes of consultative status

Decisions to grant consultative status to any non-governmental international organization shall be based on the principles that the purposes for entering into consultative status shall be:

- (a) to enable the International Maritime Organization to obtain information or expert advice from non-governmental international organizations with special knowledge in a particular sector of the Organization's activities; and
- (b) to enable such non-governmental international organizations representing large groups whose activities have an important and direct bearing on the work of the International Maritime Organization, to express their points of view to the Organization.

¹ The original text of the Rules was adopted by Assembly resolution A.31(II) of 13 April 1961. Amendments to the Rules were adopted by a decision of the Assembly at its fourteenth session on 20 November 1985. Other amendments were adopted by the Council at its eighty-sixth session on 22 June 2001 and endorsed by the Assembly at its twenty-second session on 29 November 2001.

Rule 3

Objectives and activities of the non-governmental international organization

Before granting consultative status to any non-governmental international organization, the Council must be satisfied that:

- (a) the activity of the non-governmental international organization concerned is related directly to the purposes of the International Maritime Organization as defined in Article 1 of the Convention, and
- (b) the objectives and functions of the non-governmental international organization are fully in harmony with the spirit, functions and principles of the International Maritime Organization.

Rule 4

General undertaking by the non-governmental organization

Consultative status may not be granted to a non-governmental international organization unless it undertakes to support the activities of the International Maritime Organization and to promote the dissemination of its principles and work, bearing in mind the objectives and functions of the International Maritime Organization on the one hand, and the competence and activities of the non-governmental international organization on the other.

Rule 5

Constitution and structure of the non-governmental organization

Consultative status may not be granted to any non-governmental international organization unless it has a permanent headquarters, a governing body and an executive officer, and is truly international with members, component branches or affiliated bodies in a sufficient number of countries. Where it is not truly international regarding its component branches or affiliated bodies in a sufficient number of countries, consultative status may be granted on a provisional basis. In both cases, it must be authorized under its constitution to speak for its members through accredited representatives.

Rule 6

Privileges conferred by consultative status

The granting of consultative status to a non-governmental international organization shall confer the following privileges on that organization:

- (a) The right to receive the provisional agenda for sessions of the Assembly, the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and other organs of the International Maritime Organization;
- (b) the right to submit written statements on items of the agenda of the Assembly, the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and other organs of the International Maritime Organization which are of interest to the non-governmental international organizations concerned after appropriate consultations with the Secretary-General, provided that such submission does not impede the smooth functioning of the International Maritime Organization or the organ involved. The non-governmental international organizations concerned shall give due consideration to any comment which the Secretary-General may make in the course of such consultations before transmitting the statement in final form;
- (c) the right to be represented by an observer at plenary meetings of the Assembly and, on the invitation of the Secretary-General, at those meetings during sessions of the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee and other organs of the International Maritime Organization at which matters of special interest to the non-governmental international organizations concerned are to be considered;
- (d) the right to receive the texts of resolutions adopted by the Assembly and, at the discretion of the Secretary-General, of recommendations made by the Council, the Maritime Safety Committee, the Legal Committee, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, the Technical Co-operation Committee or other organs of the International Maritime Organization on matters of special interest to the non-governmental international organizations concerned and of the appropriate supporting documents.

Rule 7

***Status at meetings of the International
Maritime Organization***

Normally one observer from each non-governmental international organization shall be admitted to any session or meeting. Such observer shall have no voting rights but may, on the invitation of the Chairman and with the approval of the body concerned, speak on any item of the agenda of special interest to the non- governmental international organization of which he is the representative.

Rule 8

***Granting of reciprocal privileges to the
International Maritime Organization***

Any non-governmental international organization to which consultative status is granted shall keep the Secretary-General currently informed of those aspects of its own activities which are likely to be of interest to the International Maritime Organization and accord to the International Maritime Organization privileges corresponding to those which are granted to it by the Organization.

Rule 9

Consideration of applications

The Council shall only consider applications for consultative status from non-governmental international organizations once a year and shall not consider re-applications from such organizations until at least two years have elapsed since the Council took a decision on the original application.

Rule 10

***Periodic review of the list of non-governmental
international organizations***

The Council shall review from time to time the list of non-governmental international organizations to which it has granted consultative status, in order to determine whether the continuance of their status in any particular case is necessary and desirable and shall report to the Assembly accordingly.
