

Tips for NGOs applying for ECOSOC Consultative Status

1. Know your NGO - you will be asked questions about every aspect of your organisation's work, finances, website and partnerships, make sure you have all the information ready so that you can answer the questions accurately during your application and if you are called upon to answer verbally during the session. Make sure the representative you send is knowledgeable, calm and a good speaker.

2. Be concise and factual - answer the question you are asked and there is no need to say any more. Don't offer up information that you have not been asked about. Stick to the facts, don't give a long, passionate defence of your NGO's work; you will persuade the Members more through your ability to give clear, accurate answers to their questions.

3. Answer all the questions - be sure to answer every question that is put to you; if you forget to answer then you can guarantee you will be asked it again, thus adding another layer of questioning to your application's progress.

4. Check your website - before you apply make sure that your website complies with UN language e.g. double check that you are using correct UN terminology when referring to controversial places such as Taiwan or Kurdistan. Delete any unnecessary links to other organisations' websites; you will be asked additional questions on any partners organisations so make sure you only have links to ones that you know are trustworthy and with whom you have a close working relationship.

5. Be patient - the application process is long and repetitive, but if you lose your temper, become sarcastic or visibly annoyed then you will set yourself back considerably. Remain respectful and follow UN protocol at all times.

6. Meet the delegates - take time before the session begins to meet as many of the delegates as you can. You will be more successful if the NGO has a face. Ask them what questions they have about your organisation and answer them at that meeting. If the delegation has concerns about your NGO ask them what you could do to reassure them and then take their advice.