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Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations
Conférence des ONG ayant des Relations Consultatives avec les Nations Unies



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Udyama

HIG-283/K-5/Kalinga Vihar,

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India

Geneva, 23 February 2012

Invitation to become a CoNGO member

Dear Collegues,

Welcome to the NGO family supporting the work of the United Nations! The Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations (CoNGO) wishes to congratulate your organization for having been granted consultative status in 2011 with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). You now belong to the more than 3000 NGOs worldwide that have the opportunity to influence directly the decisions being taken within the United Nations.

We would like to introduce you to CoNGO, a network and association of NGOs accredited with the ECOSOC, which for over 60 years has actively promoted and facilitated the participation and involvement of civil society organizations

in the work of the United Nations and its agencies. CoNGO reaches out to NGOs around the world to facilitate and strengthen their efforts to deal more effectively with matters treated in United Nations fora. It seeks to raise the voices of NGOs working at national, regional and international levels and promote their actions.

CONGO's vision is to be the primary support and platform for a civil society represented by a global community of informed, empowered and committed NGOs that fully participate with the UN in decision-making and programs leading to a better world, a world of economic and social justice.

CONGO is well placed to provide support and guidance to NGOs worldwide. Its structure includes a wide range of Substantive NGO Committees, providing advocacy and input on an ongoing basis to ECOSOC and other UN bodies in the economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related fields, as well as in the areas of human rights, gender, sustainable development, peace and disarmament.

Working from its international secretariat offices in Geneva, New York and Vienna, CONGO is engaged in an ambitious outreach programme, providing more support for NGOs at regional and national levels to enhance their involvement with the United Nations, through new partnerships, regional consultations and co-sponsored events.

Our strategic plans cover wide-ranging goals:

Enhanced **DIALOGUE** through:

The organization of theme oriented activities such as the annual Civil Society Development Forum

The facilitation and co-facilitation of parallel events to major UN conferences and meetings

The Substantive Committees, promoting and facilitating collective work related to programmes, policies and activities of the United Nations System

OUTREACH and **SERVICE** to the NGO community in all regions of the world

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING for NGOs

GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS and **INFORMATION SHARING**, both on issues that are – or should be – on the United Nations agenda, and on practicalities for civil society organizations to work together on common concerns

MAINTAIN PRESENCE and input at major UN and NGO Conferences and Consultations

Improved **MEMBERSHIP SERVICES**, working **TOGETHER** with the members to assist them to achieve their goals

With almost 600 members, many of which are umbrella organizations themselves, CoNGO is truly a global association that is well recognized within United Nations and other international circles.

We would like to invite you to join CoNGO and work together with us to strengthen UN-NGO relations. We would be glad to count you among our members and for this purpose we attach herewith our membership application form.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Cyril Ritchie

President of CoNGO

PS. Please also check the CoNGO website: www.ngocongo.org