

What is a CoNGO Committee on Substantive Issues

As per Rules 37 – 45

of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations (CoNGO)

- Committees may be established under the auspices of the Conference of NGOs in order to promote and facilitate collective work among NGOs on substantive issues related to programmes, policies and activities of the United Nations system. These committees may organise activities which provide opportunities for NGOs to debate such issues, to articulate their views, to advocate positions with respect to UN resolutions or programmes, and to mobilize public opinion.
- Committees may be established either by the General Assembly or by the Board at the request of twenty or more Members (in consultative status with ECOSOC), which shall specify whether the committee is to be a standing or fixed-term committee. When a decision has been taken to establish such a committee, the Board shall notify the Members of the Conference of NGOs and invite all Members to an initial meeting.
- Committees of NGOs in consultative status which have already been established outside the framework of the Conference of NGOs may be accepted by decision of the CoNGO Board as committees of the Conference provided they agree to accept the rules applying to committees of the Conference of NGOs.
- Committees shall report regularly to the CoNGO Board.
- Committees set up under the auspices of the Conference of NGOs are required to establish rules and procedures for membership, for voting, for the periodic election of officers among members of the Committee who are representatives of organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, for the keeping of meeting records, for the handling of monies which will include an annual financial report to be made available to its membership and to the CONGO Board, and for the conduct of their work, in a manner consistent with the rules of the Conference of NGOs.
- Committees so formed shall not act, nor claim to act, in the name of the Conference of NGOs, or of the CoNGO Board.
- Committees having similar interests shall maintain close contact with each other, and shall coordinate their activities and programmes.
- Where a committee is engaged in the preparation of a non-governmental activity in connection with a particular United Nations event, there shall be close collaboration with other NGO groupings interested in that activity.
- According to the funds at its disposal, the CoNGO Board may give financial assistance to a committee, which may also levy an annual subscription from its member or participating organisations.