



XV Regular Session of the General Conference
Tlatelolco, Mexico City, July 10, 1997

RESOLUTION 359 (XV)

PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE GENERAL CONFERENCE

The General Conference,

Bearing in mind that in accordance with Article 21 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, the status of Observer is only granted to States requesting such status;

Taking into account Resolution 323 (XIV) adopted by the General Conference of OPANAL at its 79th Session, held on 28 March 1995, which instructed the Secretariat to prepare a draft amendment to said Rules of Procedure of the General Conference, in order to regulate the participation of Non-Governmental Organizations in the sessions of the General Conference and to submit said draft amendment to the Council for its consideration and subsequent transmittal to the General Conference;

Considering the increasing participation of Non-Governmental Organizations in different international forums;

Acknowledging the scope of the specialized skillfulness and the capacity of some Non-Governmental Organizations to support the work of OPANAL;

Taking into account the need to modify the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference,

Resolves:

To modify the Chapter VI of the Rules of Procedure of the General Conference as follows:

Chapter VI: Participation of Non-Governmental Organizations

Article 22

It shall be a prerogative of the General Conference to decide on the participation of Non-Governmental Organizations at its regular and special sessions, following a recommendation of the Council.

Article 23

The Secretariat shall be in charge of receiving and evaluating, on a preliminary basis, applications for the accreditation of Non-Governmental Organizations interested in taking part in the General Conference; said applications shall be submitted for consideration by the Council, together with an evaluation by the Secretariat.

Article 24

In evaluating the application of a Non-Governmental Organization and, if applicable, in extending a favorable recommendation to the General Conference, both the Secretary General and the Council shall consider:

- a) Criteria and Principles similar to those contained in Resolution 1996/31 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council on the participation of Non-Governmental Organizations;
- b) whether the objectives, programs and activities of Non-Governmental Organizations reflect a genuine and verifiable interest in contributing to international peace and security, specifically by supporting the regime for the prohibition of nuclear weapons, as well as promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and
- c) give preference to Non-Governmental Organizations recognized as advisory entities by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Article 25

Any Non-Governmental Organization that has been accredited may participate in the plenary of the subsequent sessions of the General Conference, unless a decision to the contrary is reached by the General Conference.

Article 26

Non-Governmental Organizations accredited by the General Conference may only take the floor during plenary sessions, in accordance with the practice established by the United Nations and at the discretion of the chairman of the Conference, who shall consider the respective application depending on the time available to and work of the General Conference.

Should Non-Governmental Organizations wish to present written statements to the General Conference, such statements shall be distributed by the Secretariat to the delegations in the quantities and languages provided, as long as such statements bear relation to the topics being examined by the Conference.

Article 27

The General Conference may suspend or cancel the accreditation of a Non-Governmental Organization when it deems it advisable or at the request of the Council.

(Adopted at the 86th Session,
held on 10 July 1997)