

# ECOSOC Consultative Status for NGOs: Why It Matters & How to Apply

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## Why Register with ECOSOC?

Consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) empowers Bahamian NGOs to:

- Participate in high-level UN conferences and commissions (e.g., CSW, HLPF)
- Submit written and oral statements on regional concerns like gender equity, youth development, and climate resilience
- Build partnerships with donors, development agencies, and other CSOs
- Gain international recognition and strengthen organizational credibility

## Who is Eligible?

To apply, your NGO must:

- Be non-profit and legally registered in The Bahamas
- Have been in operation for at least 2 years
- Conduct work relevant to ECOSOC's mandate (e.g., sustainable development, human rights, gender equality)
- Be governed by a democratic decision-making structure

## Steps to Apply

1. Prepare Required Documents:
  - a. Certificate of incorporation or NGO registration
  - b. Organization's constitution/bylaws
  - c. The two most recent annual activity and financial reports
2. Register and apply via:
  - a. Civil Society Network: <https://ecosoc.un.org/en/what-we-do/working-civil-society>
  - b. iCSO Application Portal: <https://esango.un.org/civilsociety/login.do>
3. Await Review:
  - a. Respond to any queries from the Committee on NGOs
  - b. Reviews occur in January and June each year

### **Types of Consultative Status**

- General: For large NGOs with a wide global reach
- Special: For NGOs with expertise in focused areas (e.g., health, education)
- Roster: For NGOs that occasionally contribute to ECOSOC's work

### **After Approval – What You Can Do**

- Attend UN sessions and international events
- Co-host and participate in side events
- Submit formal input to UN policy discussions
- Submit a quadrennial report every 4 years to maintain your status

***“Small islands. Big voices. Global impact.”***

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