

National and Regional Consultations and Elections

Working Definitions and General Remarks for the Consultation and Election Process

Article 1 d) should be understood as **Discretionary** for the Commission and Member States to fill the gaps that might be identified in representativeness of CSO's groups in the ECOSOCC after elections been held.

Competente CSO's Authorities as referred to in **Article 5 (1.)** for the purposes of the ECOSOCC Consultation and Election process, should be understood as **the platform in which all constituency or membership based and issues based organizations will own the process at the national and regional levels with the facilitation of ECOSOCC Interim General Assembly members.**

In some countries the platform is already in existence and in others it has to be determined and agreed amongst existing structures with the facilitation of the Standing Committee. Documents to be used during the facilitation will include the ECOSOCC Statutes, the Criteria for Selection of CSO's for the ECOSOCC and the Code of Ethics and Conduct.

For matters relating to ECOSOCC this Authority or Platform could be formalized through an MOU specifying Roles, Responsibilities and Tasks. Members of the ECOSOCC both the IGA and post interim will be drivers of the process.

The platform that ensures all categories of CSO's as provided for in Article 3 of the Statutes:

- National CSO/NGO Councils or federations;
- National NGO and CBO networks/forums;
- National issue based CSO networks (trade unions, professional associations, etc.);
- Government line ministries or departments.

In collaboration with ECOSOCC may initiate a consultative process which is all inclusive, transparent and democratic. This is for purposes of popularizing ECOSOCC and elections of two CSO representatives to the General Assembly. This platform may differ from State to State, for this case the mandate will be provided by ECOSOCC.

This platform will also provide the bridging role between ECOSOCC and the national CSO's at all levels and also a continuous consultation process and participation.

The above definition also solves the question of convener.

In the interpretation of **Article 6 (6.)** for the purpose of the ECOSOCC Consultation and Election processes should be paid attention to the fact that:

- There is a need to exercise caution on calling upon the Assembly to amend it as it may open up further issues that may make it worse. On the other hand, the drafting of the Article is very broad and vague giving room for wider interpretation. Ex.: "*Basic resources*" could be take to mean human resources, assets, etc. furthermore, the second sentence gives room to declare external contributions, thus acknowledging they exist and are legitimate it would be important to seek further legal advice before taking any action.

Logframe for the ECOSOCC Workplan for 2005/2007

Overall Objective: Institutionalize and operationalise ECOSOCC at National, Regional and Continental Level, ensure effective participation of CSO's in activities and programs of the African Union as provided for in Article 2 and 7 of ECOSOCC Statute.					
Specific Objectives	Proposed Activities	Actors	Expected Results/Indicators	Schedule (Month/Year)	Budget
1. Establishment of the National Coordination Mechanisms for purposes of popularizing ECOSOCC and election of two CSO representatives to ECOSOCC General Assembly	1.1- Collect and compile information in regard to CSO's structures in all AU members states for purposes of identifying linkages and establishing a framework of communication and consultation in accordance to Article 3 (Database and profiling)	Country representatives in the ECOSOCC	A database and profiling for CSO's groups as defined for the process produced	May/June 2005	
	1.2- Communicate ECOSOCC consultative process to key National CSO's, forums, networks, coalitions and federations for the launching of the national consultative process and provide benchmarks for the consultations	Competent CSO Authority IGA, Standing Committee Bureau Members	Competent CSO Authority constituted Presentation of the ECOSOCC process to the Competent CSO Authority held;	May/June 2005	

	1.3- Communicate ECOSOCC consultative process to countrywide CSO's through the Provincial representatives of the Competent CSO's Authorities members for the launching of the national consultative process and provide bench marks for the elections	Competent CSO Authority Provincial forums Representatives in ECOSOCC	Launching of the national consultation process and way forward planning developed	May/June 2005	
	1.4- Carry out national consultations for the election of two CSO's from AU member states to ECOSCC GA in 2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Competent CSO Authority, CSO ➤ Representatives in ECOSOCC Regional representative of the Bureau	1.		
	1.5- Interaction between countries in the same region to do a supervisory work to each other (through the standing committee and Bureau members in that region)				
	1.6-				
	1.7-		2.		
	1.8- Country Visit by Credentials Committee to oversees the final election process after all consultation process has been previously agreed		3.		
	1.9- Regional Consultations for the election of regional	Representatives in ECOSOCC	4.		

	representatives				
	1.10- Continental Consultations for the election of continental representatives		5.		
	1.11-		6.	May/2005 to June/2005	
2. Operationalization of Cluster Committees and	2.1. Putting in place cluster committees 2.2. Develop action for cluster committees 2.2. Develop content for the AU Summit in July 2005				
3. Participate effectively and provide inputs to AU through Cluster Committees	3.1. Organize a meeting between the cluster committees and AU Commission				
4. Communication and Visibility					
5. Fundraising Strategy				Ongoing	