

**Addendum to
“Possible measures for consultation with NGOs/CSOs in the work of the CoC-IEE”**

- 1) At the joint meeting of Working Groups I, II and III of 24 March 2009, Members requested additional information regarding the proposed modalities for consultation with NGOs/CSOs in the work of the CoC-IEE.
- 2) Criteria for NGOs/CSOs: The Annex provides the rules and practices for participation of NGOs/CSOs in FAO fora. Following the Basic Texts, FAO has its own practice and procedures for accreditation of such organizations to FAO meetings and bodies. There are 201 international NGOs (INGOs) in formal status to FAO. Other INGOs are reviewed and may be accredited for Technical Committee sessions and other meetings. Unlike rules governing ECOSOC, the FAO Basic Texts do not provide for accreditation of national NGOs but these can attend as members of international federations, associations or networks.
- 3) INGOs are evaluated by the relevant FAO technical unit(s), the office responsible for cooperation with civil society and, as necessary, the Legal Office to insure conformity with FAO criteria. These are: a) organizations must demonstrate relevance to and lack of conflict with FAO’s mandate and programmes, b) have a governing body with members from at least three countries, and c) have activities in at least three countries.
- 4) Pending the redefinition of a strategy and the adoption of new procedures, FAO has been implementing a number of informal mechanisms on an ad hoc basis for participation of NGOs/CSOs in some FAO meetings. In order to balance geographical and social group representation, FAO communicates through focal point and umbrella organizations of farmers, fishers, women, youth, indigenous peoples and others. FAO practice is distinct though comparable to the Major Groups process of selection of “organizing partners” that facilitate exchange amongst NGOs/CSOs participating in the Commission on Sustainable Development.
- 5) The modalities proposed would permit both indirect and larger scale dialogue with the CoC-IEE. The web-based consultation process would permit broad consultation worldwide through umbrella organizations. Possible participation in specific CoC-IEE sessions would be limited to a small number of focal points representing the views of their respective groups. CSOs/NGOs could provide inputs for Members’ consideration in specific areas to be identified by Member States. Decision making would remain a matter for Members only.
- 6) Costs: The information provided in the paper is indicative of likely financial requirements in human and other resources in order to effectively facilitate exchange with INGOs and provide summaries for Members’ consideration as information documents. If this approach is endorsed by Member States, additional funding will be required, through regular programme or extra budgetary contributions.