



11th August, 2005

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are pleased to confirm to you that the High Level Consultation and Workshop on Capacity Building for the United Nations NGO Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE) in Turkey, jointly organized by the Federation of Balkan Turks & Associations for Emigrants (BGF Federation) and by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) will be held in Bursa, Istanbul, Turkey from 28 to 30 September 2005.

The aim of this workshop is to launch the UN-NGO-IRENE in Turkey, to follow-up to the establishment of the UN-NGO-IRENE in the Caspian Region and to promote partnership with NGOs from the Balkan region. In this regard, it is important to mention that as a follow-up to the launch of the Informal Network of NGOs at the international level, the meeting will establish the national network of NGOs in Turkey focusing on strengthening coordination, collaboration and partnership between the NGO sector, the government and the United Nations. The workshop also seeks to build and reinforce the capacities of participant organizations in order to contribute effectively to national, regional and international development efforts and promote partnership initiatives, particularly in the framework of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and the overall objectives of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

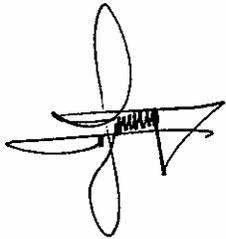
Each participant is expected to prepare a brief report max. (5 pages) on the role of his/her organization in the formulation and implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and projects for sustainable development contributing to reach the specific MDG related to its fields of intervention. The report should be sent either by e-mail to Ms. Najet Karaborni (karaborni@un.org) with a copy to M. Serdar Yildirim (syldrm@superonline.com) and Turhan Gencoglu (genchol@penguen.com.tr) or by fax to 1- 212 – 963 - 2916, 90– 216 – 532 - 4836 and 90 - 224 – 470-1516.

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Participants are responsible for obtaining their own visa. They are also requested to fill out and return the enclosed acceptance form, and forward to us a one-page CV and a medical certificate stating that they are in good health to travel.

We look forward to working together with you in this endeavor and to reinforce our fruitful collaboration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a central horizontal line with several loops and flourishes extending above and below it.

Turhan Gencoglu
President
B.G.F

A handwritten signature in black ink, written in a cursive style, appearing to read 'Hanifa Mezoui'.

Hanifa Mezoui
Chief NGO Section
ECOSOC/UNDESA

United Nations High Level Consultation and Workshop on Capacity Building for the
Informal NGO Regional Network in Bursa, Istanbul, Turkey (28 to 30 September 2005)

ACCEPTANCE FORM FOR PARTICIPANTS

Mr./Ms. _____ Surname: _____ Given name: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Country: _____ Mail code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of birth: _____ Nationality: _____

Passport number: _____ Passport issued at: _____

Date of issue: _____ Date of expiration: _____

Signature of participant: _____

Date: _____

Kindly return this form by fax to: 1-212-963-2916 and 90-216-532- 4836 / 90-224-470-1516

A one-page CV and Medical Certificate stating that you are in good health to travel will also be required before a travel authorization can be issued. Kindly forward these at your earliest convenience.

For further information, contact:

Ms. Najet Karaborni, Tel. 1-212-963-6207, E-mail: karaborni@un.org

M. Serdar Yildirim, Tel. 90-216-342-8599, E-mail: syldrm@superonline.com

Turhan Gencoglu, Tel. 90-224-470-1616, E.Mail : genchol@penguen.com.tr

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

High Level Consultation and Workshop on Capacity Building for the informal NGO Regional Network in Turkey

28 to 30 September 2005

Bursa, Istanbul, Turkey

INFORMATIVE NOTE

The High Level Consultation and Workshop on Capacity-Building for the UN-NGO Informal Regional Network in Turkey (UN-NGO-IRENE/Turkey) is being jointly organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, through its UN-NGO-IRENE/NGO Section and the Federation of Balkan Turks & Associations for Emigrants (BGF Federation) in Bursa, Istanbul, Turkey from 28 to 30 September 2005.

BACKGROUND

In order to increase civil society's involvement in economic and social life and the number of Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) being granted consultative status, the United Nations Economic and Social Council decided to promote inclusive relationships with a large number of NGOs from all regions of the world. This initiative also responds to the fact that a great number of organizations face financial and logistical constraints that minimize considerably the effective use of their consultative status with ECOSOC and limit their participation in the international decision making process, preventing them from taking advantage of the increasing role they might play in the new governance at all levels (global, regional, national and local).

In 1999, the General Assembly recommended that the United Nations Secretariat NGO Section (Department of Economic and Social Affairs) "improve the exchange of information through informal networks of country or regionally-based NGOs in consultative status with the ECOSOC, which will serve as links between the NGO Section and NGOs in each region". This recommendation intends to promote regular contacts between this section and NGOs, to improve the spread of information on the United Nations' activities regionally and internationally towards NGOs and to strengthen their capacities.

In order to respond to these objectives, the NGO Section/DESA promoted the establishment of an informal regional network of NGOs (UN-IRENE) gathering organizations representing Northern Africa, Western Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe and Latin America. This initiative was launched in April 2001 during the meeting in Aracaju (Brazil) "Launch of the NGO Informal Regional Network".

The network, supported through the intermediary activities of designated regional and sub-regional coordinator organizations, aims at creating a system that provides information and support to all organizations, even the smallest and the most isolated, and gives them the opportunity for sharing expertise and resources, so as to reinforce their impact.

It thus contributes to harmonizing and unifying the actions launched by the United Nations System in favor of an increased cooperation and partnership with civil society.

In January 2002, the meeting on “Capacity Building for the Informal Regional Network in Africa”, held in Hammamet (Tunisia) from 8 to 11 January, launched the Informal Regional Network of NGOs in Africa. One of the most relevant outcomes of the meeting was the designation of five African NGOs to serve as sub-regional coordinators and of one of them as regional coordinator.

In the framework of the worldwide development of the UN- NGO informal regional network (IRENE) and of its implementation in the remaining regions, a capacity building programme for the IRENE in Turkey is proposed.

OBJECTIVES

The Capacity Building program for the UN-NGO-IRENE in Turkey will focus on preparing NGOs to contribute to the work of ECOSOC by providing them with the tools to confront major problems of the region. The overall goal of the network for Turkey is to minimize the financial and logistical constraints that have limited the ability of NGOs from this region to participate in the decision-making process at the global level.

There are only fourteen NGOs in Turkey with consultative status with ECOSOC. Consequently, isolation from global development strategies and weak cooperation mechanisms have resulted in limited success for the NGO community at the local level.

In particular, this meeting will contribute to the increased awareness and mobilization of Turkey NGOs in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Particular emphasis will be given to achieving the goals of: 1. Education, 2. Child mortality and maternal health, 3. Ensuring environment sustainability, 4. Developing a global partnership for development, 5. Emigrants, 6. Youth and Women.

Long-term objectives of the network

- ◆ To enhance NGOs’ contribution to the development of their country and their role in the new participatory governance at all levels (local, national, regional and international)
- ◆ To facilitate NGOs’ participation in the United Nations activities and in the international decision-making process
- ◆ To promote the effectiveness of NGOs’ response to common development challenges
- ◆ To promote exchange of innovative experiences and best practices among NGOs, especially among the ones operating in neighbor countries.

Immediate objectives

- ◆ Reinforcing NGOs’ existing skills, NGO capacity and developing human resources
- ◆ Strengthening relationships, exchange, cooperation and partnership initiatives, projects and programmes among NGOs in the region and between developed countries’ NGOs and the other ones
- ◆ Establishing a permanent dialogue among the NGOs, the NGO Section/DESA, local structures of the UNDP, DPI and the United Nations in general facilitating the access to information

- ◆ Strengthening multistakeholder partnership between the United Nations, Youth, Universities and Academia, national Economic and Social Councils, NGOs and national, sub-regional and regional coordinators of UN-NGO-IRENE to enhance their contribution to the ECOSOC work in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the major UN events' recommendations and action plans.

The general voluntary trust fund that was recently established by the ECOSOC Decision E/2002/225 will support the full functioning of the UN-NGO-IRENE as well as the implementation of its activities to reach the abovementioned objectives in partnership with selected and interested coalition of NGOs, NGOs, Governments, donor countries and IRENE partners.

Written submissions

Each participant should prepare a written report (5 pages), which should be sent to the NGO Section/ ECOSOC, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UNDESA), either by e-mail to **Ms. Najet Karaborni (karaborni@un.org)** with a copy to **M. Serdar Yildirim (syldrm@superonline.com)** and **Turhan Gencoglu (genchol@penguen.com.tr)** or by fax to 1-212-963- 2916 and 90-216-532-4836 and o90 - 224 – 470-1516

Administrative Information

The participants are responsible for obtaining visas for themselves.

Contact persons:

In New York:

Ms. Najet Karaborni, Tel: 1-212-963-6207
Fax: 1-212-963-2916, E-mail: karaborni@un.org

In Turkey :

M. Serdar Yildirim
Fax: 90-216-532-4836 E-mail: syldrm@superonline.com

Turhan Gencoglu,
Fax: 90-224-470-1516 E-Mail: genchol@penguen.com.tr

Draft Agenda of the Meetings

Wednesday 28 September 2005 Bursa Chamber of Commerce Assembly Hall
Organize Sanayi Bolgesi – BURSA - TURKEY

09:00-9:30	Arrival and Registration
9:30-10:00	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Welcoming by Turhan Gencoglu, President of BGF Federation on behalf of the two Host NGOs ◆ Opening Statement by Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the NGO Section/ECOSOC of UNDESA, ◆ Celal Sonmez President Bursa Chamber of Commerce ◆ Opening Speech by High Officials
10:00-10:30	Networking Break
10:30-13:00	<p>High-Level Consultation and Capacity Building Meeting to Strengthen the Capacity of Turkish NGOs</p> <p>Moderator: Serdar Yildirim, President of IBS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Hanifa Mezoui : “ ECOSOC, NGOs and MDGs” ◆ Najet Karaborni, UN-NGO-IRENE/Project Coordinator and Senior Advisor/UNDESA: “UN-NGO-IRENE Objectives and role” <p>Discussions: Q & A NGO presentations and Formation of Working Groups on MDGs</p>
13:00-14:30	Networking Lunch
14:30-16:00	Working Groups: UN-NGO-IRENE/Turkey
16:00-16:30	Networking Break
16:30-17:30	Report of the Working Groups
17:30-18:00	Closing of the National Meeting
19:30-22:00	Dinner hosted by Governor of Bursa

Thursday 29 September 2005

9:30-11:00	UN-NGO-IRENE/Caspian Region Follow-up Moderator: Nedim Kaya, Regional Coordinator of the UN-NGO-IRENE/Caspian region Presentation of the strategic action plan for UN-NGO-IRENE/Caspian Region by Najet Karaborni Discussions and Adoption Of the strategic action plan
11:00-11:30	Networking Break
11:30-13:00	Partnership with Balkan NGOs Moderator: Turhan Gencoglu Presentation by Albert Musliu , UN-NGO-IRENE/Subregional Coordinator NGO proposals of partnership initiatives and action plan
13:00-14:30	Networking Lunch
14:30-16:00	Training Workshop: NGO contribution to the ECOSOC High Level segment of 2006 Moderator: Hanifa Mezoui NGO proposals and Recommendations on the selected ECOSOC Theme of 2006
16:00-16:15	Networking Break
16:15-17:00	Closing of the Regional Meeting: Summary report and Adoption Closing Speech
17:00-19:30	Bursa Sightseeing Tour and Dinner
19:30	Transfer to Istanbul

Friday 30 September 2005

Morning **Visit NGO Projects**

Afternoon **Departure of the participants**