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NGO Section

Department of Economic and Social Affairs
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New York, 5 August 2003

Dear Mr. Arkle,

I was happy to see that you were able to attend the meeting of the 2003 ECOSOC High-Level Segment in Geneva this past month as this experience will have given you an idea of what is required from participating NGOs. This demonstration of your interest and commitment was most welcome especially as you expressed your will to act as Regional Coordinator for UN NGO-IRENE (Informal Regional Network) / Canada and to secure for that purpose the support of the Directors of “Hope for the Nations”.

I shall be pleased to meet with your Board in the not too distant future for a full briefing on the Informal Regional Network and an in-depth exploration of how the potential partnership with “Hope for the Nations” might best contribute to fulfilling our vision for its implementation. In this regard and as a follow-up to our discussions on the subject, you should carefully review: Annex 1* “United Nations Informal Regional Network Terms of Reference”; Annex 2 “Criteria for the UN-NGO- IRENE Coordinators”; Annex 3 Terms of Reference for UN-NGO-IRENE Coordinators”; and, Annex 4 “Discussion Topics of the UN-NGO- IRENE”; Annex 5 “Guidelines for Regional Coordinators”.

In the meantime, as you suggest, it would be just as well to schedule a timely start-up of the preliminary activities for your first undertaking as leading NGO in your country and potential Regional Coordinator for Canada, which will be to coordinate the input of Canadian NGOs to the ministerial debate at the next substantive session of ECOSOC in 2004. The theme for the High-Level Segment will be: **“Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010”** (contained in Annex 6 “Brussels Declaration”, Annex 7 “Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010” and Annex 8 (Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, Small Island Development States). You might also wish to visit the website of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States at www.un.org/ohrlls.

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For this purpose, you could follow the following steps:

1. To identify a representative sample of the best-qualified NGOs to address the theme of the forthcoming High-Level deliberations. To this end, you will find in Annex 9, a list of ECOSOC NGOs in the region, broken down by area of activity
2. To organize a workshop on “**Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010**” bringing together representatives of the selected Canadian NGOs as well as NGOs from least developed countries (which could be beneficiaries of your programmes) to discuss the theme based on their respective expertise and experience and come up with practical recommendations and concrete proposals to be submitted to the ECOSOC. My Senior Advisor and UN-NGO-IRENE Project Coordinator, Ms Najet Karaborni could help you to conduct your workshop and draw up the main findings and conclusions taking into account her vast experience and high expertise in this field
3. To prepare with our help a guidebook on “**Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010**” based on the findings of the workshop
4. To participate in the ECOSOC HLS and present the summary of the workshop and guidebook.

You should be aware that all documentation proposed by NGOs for submission to ECOSOC must first be read and approved by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations. NGO contributions to the Council’s 2004 Substantive Session will be considered by the Committee at its next Regular Session in May 2004. Therefore the presentation of the “Hope for the Nations” for the High Level Segment should be received by my office no later than the first week of April 2004, to allow time for processing and distribution to members of the Committee prior to its May 2004 meeting.

I hope that you now have enough information to embark on the various activities described above. Please be assured that we stand ready to assist you in any way possible and feel free to call upon us at any time.

Sincerely,

Hanifa Mezoui

* The Annexes referred to above will be forwarded to you under separate cover by surface mail.